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Showdown over Bill 115

Teachers out on Super Tuesday. Union ready to stage a 'political protest' in the new year — and it could be on a school day

Teachers and the minority Liberal government are headed for a showdown in the new year, with Education Minister Laurel Broten refusing to back down on Bill 115 despite ongoing teacher protests and pleas to find a solution before the holidays are over.

"We're going to give an opportunity for (local) negotiations to take place," Broten said in an interview on Super Tuesday, the largest one-day strike so far by public elementary teachers at eight school boards around the province.

"After Dec. 31, the ability to negotiate collective agreements expires. At that point, we'd look to the tools in the legislation."

After almost two weeks of rotating strikes that will hit every public elementary school in the province — including 35,000 walking the picket lines in Toronto, Peel, Durham on Tuesday — student leaders and school boards are urging the government to act.

"The province took over provincial bargaining, so, in my view, they're the ones who need to ensure this disruption to public education comes to a swift conclusion," said chair Janet McDougald of the Peel District School Board.

Elementary teachers' union president Sam Hammond said that if the government does impose a contract on teachers, as it can under Bill 115 as of Dec. 31, teachers will stage a one-day "political protest" in the new year, and possibly on a school day.

While teachers would not be in a legal strike position, a "political protest" is still allowed, he told reporters outside the headquarters of the Toronto District School Board.

Premier Dalton McGuinty told CP24 that the government and teachers have "got to find a way to do better." McGuinty noted the province has settled with Catholic and French teachers, as well as the province's doctors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TEACHERS SAY THEY WON'T BACK DOWN, PG. 3

Kids at work

"I have no choice. I'm trapped. This is the worst scenario. I have meetings to go to, so they'll have to just camp out in my office all day."

Sara Hilliard, mom who brought her two children to work

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BILL 115
Respect Teachers
Respect Collective Bargaining

A teacher holds a sign lampooning provincial ministers during a protest outside Mowat Block near Queen's Park, where the Ministry of Education is housed. Education Minister Laurel Broten has been urging the teachers' unions to keep students out of their fight, and instead leave their objection to Bill 115 to the courts. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. gets closer to real talk on gun control

The NRA speaks out for the first time since a horrific elementary-school shooting. Meanwhile, some Republican politicians also say they're ready to broach the issue PAGE 6

Instagram postings spark riot in Sweden

Parents and students outraged after an anonymous account posts images of teenage girls calling them "sluts" and "whores" PAGE 10

Aaand fin!

Hollywood has been preparing us for an end-of-the-world scenario for decades — after all, high stakes mean high drama. Check out the best films to watch PAGE 24

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'Insult and indignity.' Bible killer jailed for life

Lucita Charles with her son. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A devout Christian who bludgeoned his girlfriend to death then stuck Bible pages on her chest has been sentenced life in prison with no hope of parole for 15 years.

It was a final "insult and indignity" to her body to rip out pages of his Bible and pin them to her body with a knife, Ontario Superior Court Justice Nola Garton said Tuesday.

He chose one particular passage: "That which is crooked cannot be made straight."

Patrick Barrett, 41, nodded his head as he was sentenced.

The tool and die maker hit Lucita Charles, 27, on the head 11 times with a ball-peen hammer as she lay in her bed half asleep at 5 a.m. on May 31, 2010. An expert likened her injuries to those caused by a car accident or jump from a balcony.

The father of three boys tried to plead guilty to manslaughter, but a jury found him guilty of second-degree murder in October.

Crown prosecutors asked for 17 years parole ineligibility, while defence lawyer Peter Bawden called for 12 to 14, noting Barrett has no previous criminal record or history of domestic violence.

Barrett told police he "lost it," wrongly suspecting Lucita was pregnant with his child and planned to have an abortion. Her only child has cerebral palsy and cannot talk or walk. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ikea monkey's former owner steps up the fight to get him back

The former owner of Darwin, the now infamous Ikea monkey, says she is organizing a protest in front of the Toronto Animal Services Wednesday afternoon.

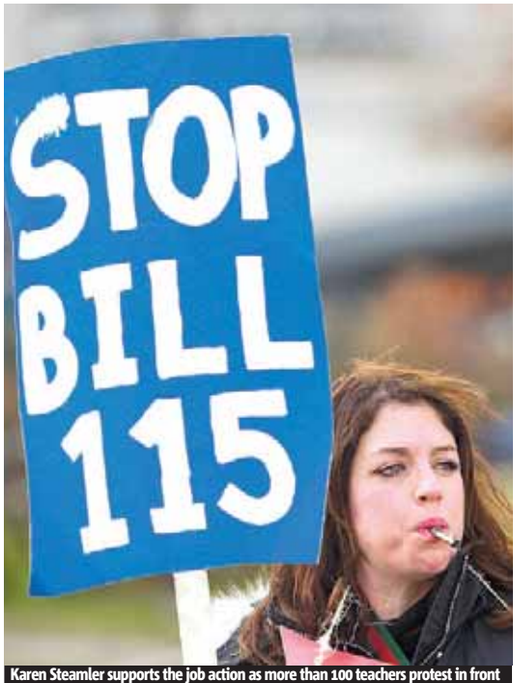
Yasmin Nakhuda, who launched a lawsuit last weekend to get her pet back, is upset that lawyers for the other side are planning to seek an adjournment Thursday morning, when her motion is to be heard in Oshawa Superior Court.

"They've taken him away — now it's 10 days. They are not granting access and now, obviously, if they're going to ask for (an) adjournment that will be ... by the end of January or something," Nakhuda said. She wants the matter decided quickly because she fears the effects of the separation.

"By the time I see him, they will have thinned down any kind of bond that is between us. It's really not fair." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yasmin Nakhuda with Darwin in an undated home video. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No, they won't back down, say teachers



Karen Steamler supports the job action as more than 100 teachers protest in front of the TDSB offices on Yonge Street on Tuesday. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dec. 31. On the picket lines Tuesday, teachers discussed what they expect to happen after the deadline for collective bargaining passes

Manuel Liu, Grade 8 teacher at Glen Ames Senior Public School:
"It could escalate into a political protest or a full illegal strike, like what happened when Mike Harris was in power."

Jen McColl, Grade 7/8 teacher at Glen Ames Senior Public School:
"I think it's going to be a continued fight, because Laurel Broten seems determined to stay on this path."

Clare McCrea, kindergarten teacher at Kew Beach Jr. Elementary School:
"I don't think it will be resolved next year. I think it'll take a couple years, at least.

"It could mean no extracurriculars for the next two years. It's a possibility."

"I'm not able to create the most detailed, the most visual lessons I would like to create."

Andy Van Slyke, Grade 2/3 teacher at Kew Beach Jr. Elementary School:
"We will be asked by our union to pause our activities outside the classroom. That will continue until we win our court challenge or the Liberals elect a new leader ...

"I'm not going to dance on their graves and roll over, and accept the imposition of this contract. We will fight on as long as we have to."

Helena Chapman, Grade 2 teacher at Kew Beach Jr. Elementary School:
"I'm using this as an opportunity to teach them about democracy and standing up for your rights."

David Hann, design and tech teacher, Donview Middle School:
"Nobody I've talked to here wants a raise ... Respecting teachers does not mean throwing money. It's all in the attitude." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Missing person identified

Finally, a name to go with 'Linda'

Linda Hegg has her identity back, but not her life. It remains a mystery to her, lost with her memory, even as her family awaits her release from a Delaware hospital. Toronto police confirmed on Tuesday that the woman previously known only as Linda was indeed Linda Hegg, 56, of Newark, Del. She entered Canada with an expired U.S. passport Sept. 3. Days later, she walked into a downtown Toronto shelter. She had no ID and no memory. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Linda Hegg
TORONTO POLICE

Brewery Ommegang

Game of Thrones gets its own beer

Word is that soon there will be a beer tailored specifically for the needs of Game of Thrones fans. HBO has announced a collaboration with Brewery Ommegang, which will eventually result in four different beers. The first will be called Iron Throne Blonde Ale and will be released in March to coincide with the premiere of Season 3. HBO says, "Unlike previous efforts by brewers, which were typically executed as 'brewed under license' arrangements or straightforward product placement pushes, the collaboration ... is focused on developing truly unique beers that directly tie into themes of the series." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Zoo

Moving three elephants to PAWS targeted for spring

It remains a tough pill for some to swallow, but the Toronto Zoo is now working toward a spring target to get its three remaining elephants on a plane to PAWS.

Tension was apparent Tuesday morning at the meeting of the zoo's board of management, its first since city council voted 32-8 last month to send the zoo's aging female African elephants to the California sanctuary.

That vote reaffirmed a decision council made on the elephants last year. But by doing so, councillors once again rejected the advice of trained zoo staff. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Barred librarian seeks GTA Christmas visit with family

'Savage attack'. Gary Freeman says he's being forced to spend another Christmas away from family because he defended his life back when he was 19

A former Toronto librarian's assistant says he's being forced to spend another Christmas away from his family in the GTA because he defended himself against a racist attack from a Chicago police officer 43 years ago.

Douglas Gary Freeman, 63, said it's unfair that Ottawa won't grant him a temporary resident permit like what was given to former media baron Conrad Black because of a violent confrontation with Chicago police officer Terrence Knox back in 1969.

In an email to the Torstar News Service, Freeman says he was just acting in self-defence against a "savage attack" that day in Chicago, when he was 19 years old.

"I was forced to defend myself," Freeman said in an email.

Knox was shot three times in the confrontation. He died in 2011 at age 63 after a prolonged illness.

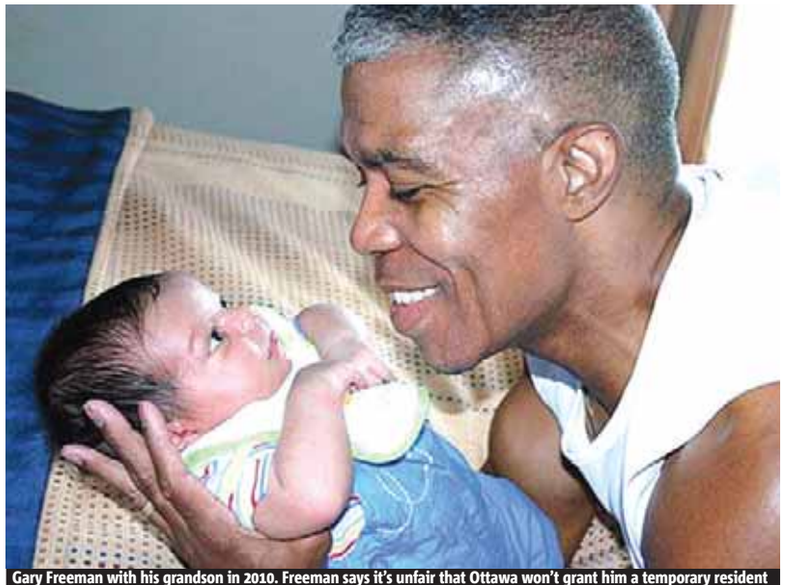
Freeman fled Chicago after the confrontation and lived 34 years in the GTA. He changed his name from "Joseph Pannell" to "Gary Freeman," and worked as a librarian's assistant at the downtown Toronto Reference Library. Freeman had no troubles with the law in Toronto, as he and his librarian wife quietly raised four children. Three of their children became schoolteachers in the GTA and the fourth played professional football for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats before becoming a personal trainer.

Freeman, now a grandfather, pleaded guilty in February 2008 to one count of aggravated battery for the 1969 incident, for which he was sentenced to 30 days in jail, two years probation and an order to pay $250,000 to charity.

Four years after completing the terms of his sentence, Freeman says he can travel anywhere in the world on his American passport except to Canada, where his family lives.

Quoted

"Back then young black men were demonized for defending themselves against police brutality."
Gary Freeman


Gary Freeman with his grandson in 2010. Freeman says it's unfair that Ottawa won't grant him a temporary resident permit like the one given to Conrad Black because of a violent confrontation he had a with Chicago police officer in 1969. COURTESY GARY FREEMAN

A spokesperson for Citizenship and Immigration Canada said that Freeman is inadmissible to this country. "Mr. Freeman, an American citizen, is a violent criminal who was extradited to the United States in 2008 to face charges of attempted murder after he shot and seriously injured a police officer," Paul Northcott of Citizenship and Immigration Canada said in an email. "He was subsequently convicted of aggravated assault."

Freeman's lawyer Barbara Jackman noted that Black was granted a one-year temporary resident permit (TRP) while still in a Florida prison for fraud and obstruction of justice so that he could re-enter Canada immediately upon his release from custody in May. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

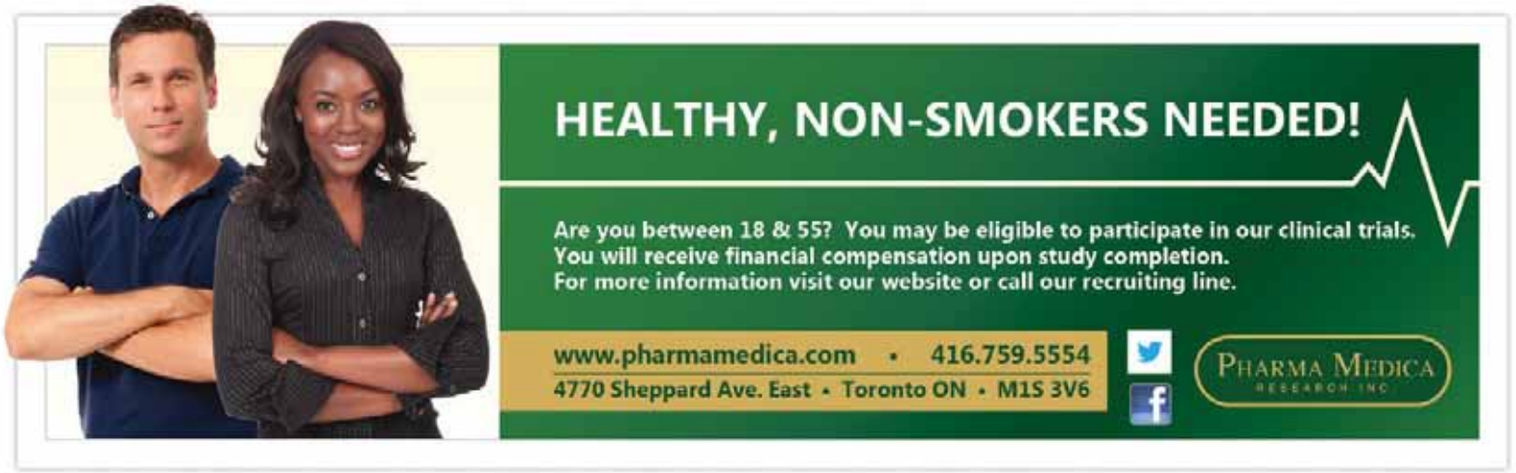
Door-to-door. Auditor recommends Wheel-Trans makeover

Should Wheel-Trans riders be required to produce a doctor's note to qualify for the TTC's accessible door-to-door service? That's just one of 22 sweeping recommendations the Toronto's auditor general has issued to tamp down ballooning costs and demand for Wheel-Trans.

Jeffrey Griffiths
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Others include a free ride program on conventional transit to entice Wheel-Trans users to switch to the bus or subway when possible, and reduced call-centre hours so more staff can be dedicated to busy periods. Wheel-Trans usage numbers are alarming and unsustainable, given the aging population, says a report by Auditor General Jeffrey Griffiths. Annual operating costs — which have increased more than 50 per cent, to $97 million since 2006 — are on track to rise to $115 million by 2015.

Wheel-Trans, which has more than 41,000 clients, delivers 2.7 million trips annually. Users pay the standard $3 TTC fare, but that covers only about 5 per cent of the $31 it costs to deliver the average ride.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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588 Parliament St
Centrepoint Mall
655 Victoria Park Ave, Unit 2
Parkway Mall
2111 Jane St, Unit 6
Dufferin Mall

Mississauga
Westwood Mall
High Point Mall
Square One
2550 Hurontario St
888 Dundas St E, Unit B2-3
7070 Saint Barbara Blvd, Unit 22
Westdale Mall

Etobicoke
Woodbine Centre
2456 Lakeshore Blvd W
30A Rexdale Blvd
Cloverdale Mall

Brampton
370 Main St Unit 25A
252 Queen St E
Shoppers World Bramalea City Centre

Markham
Pacific Mall, Unit D56

Scarborough
Agincourt Mall, Unit 0570
5981 Steeles Ave E, Unit 106
Bridlewood Mall
Scarborough Town Centre, Section C
Chartwell Shopping Centre
1885 Kennedy Rd
2667 Eglinton Ave E, Unit 1
Woodside Square Mall
4352 Kingston Rd, Unit 7B

Republicans open up to gun debate

Taking the first step. Gun manufacturers see shares continue to drop as politicians on both sides of the aisle shift stances following Friday's shooting

Susan Sheperd wipes a tear as she stands with friends and co-workers as the funeral procession for James Mattioli, 6, who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, approaches the St. John's Cemetery Tuesday in Darien, Conn. Funerals were held for Mattioli and Jessica Rekos, 6, who were among the 26 people killed when Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Dec. 14 and opened fire. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the politically treacherous issue of gun control, along with mental health issues and violent video games, while President Barack Obama said he supports efforts in Congress to reinstate an assault weapons ban in the wake of last week's Connecticut school shooting.

The massacre, one of the worst mass shootings in U.S history, has rattled the usual national dialogue on guns in America, where public opinion had shifted against tougher gun control in recent years, and the gun lobby is a powerful political force.

Obama has long supported reinstating the assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, but was quiet on the issue during his first term. He has said he believes the Constitution's Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms.

The president was not expected to take any formal action on guns before the end of the year, given the all-consuming efforts to resolve tax and deficit-reduction talks and nominate new Cabinet secretaries.

The most powerful supporter of gun owners, the National Rifle Association, broke its silence Tuesday. After a self-imposed media blackout that left many wondering how it would respond to the killings, it said in a statement that its members were "shocked, saddened and heartbroken by the news of the horrific and senseless murders."

The group also said it wanted to give families time to mourn before making its first public statements. The organization pledged "to help to make sure this never happens again" and has scheduled a news conference for Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A complicated issue

"Put guns on the table ... put video games on the table, put mental health on the table."

Republican Congressman Jack Kingston

National poll

A Washington Post/ABC News poll conducted over the weekend showed 54 per cent in the U.S. favour tougher laws, about the same as the 51 per cent in favour earlier in the year. Seven in 10 are opposed to banning the sale of handguns to anyone except law enforcement officers, the highest percentage since 1999.

Quebec. Slain teacher's relatives call American gun laws 'revolting'

The Newtown school massacre has left grieving Canadian relatives of one murdered teacher denouncing American gun laws.

Several of the Rousseau family in Quebec's Eastern Townships will be going down to Connecticut for the funeral of Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher whose father was born in Quebec.

"It's revolting how easy it is to obtain firearms — that's what's so infuriating," said the victim's uncle, Francois Rousseau. He and several relatives will be heading down for the funeral of his brother's daughter.

Lauren Rousseau, 30, was born in the U.S. Her Canadian-born father, Gilles Rousseau, told Radio-Canada that he wanted to see his daughter's body but was informed by authorities that it would not be possible.

In a tearful interview, he said the rounds used were so powerful that they ripped through the school's walls and left several holes in his daughter's car outside in the parking lot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mourning uncle

"The only thing I can express is revulsion ..."

Francois Rousseau

Colorado. Woman shot while on phone to police

Four people were found dead Tuesday in Colorado after a woman called police to report a shooting and was apparently shot to death while she was on the phone.

Weld County sheriff's spokesman Tim Schwartz says dispatchers heard the woman who called 911 scream "No, no, no," and then they heard a gunshot. Schwartz says a man grabbed the phone and said he was going to kill himself, and dispatchers heard another shot.

The bodies were found in a home in a subdivision east of Longmont, north of Denver.

The dead included two men and two women, including one who appeared to be in her late teens or early 20s.

Schwartz says investigators have a possible motive for the shootings, but he refused to release details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bushmaster rifles

Firearms maker put up for sale

The largest firearms maker in the United States said Tuesday it is being put up for sale by its owner, which called last week's school shooting a "watershed event" in the national debate over gun control. Freedom Group International makes Bushmaster rifles, the weapon thought to have been used in Friday's killings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Defending himself'

Student, 11, brings gun to school

Authorities say an 11-year-old boy caught with a gun at school in Utah told administrators he brought the weapon to defend himself in case of an attack similar to the mass shooting last week at a Connecticut elementary school. School officials say the boy has been arrested. No one was injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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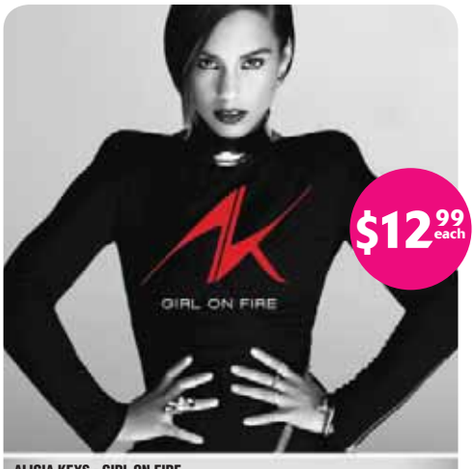

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China cracks down on doomsayers

500 arrested. Police detain members of religious group described as a cult with 'political penchants'

Chinese police have detained more than 500 people from a fringe Christian group for spreading rumours about the world's impending end, state media reported Tuesday.

In China's Qinghai province alone, police arrested more than 400 members from the religious cult group, state-run China Central Television said Tuesday.

Police seized leaflets, videos, books and other apocalyptic materials in the recent arrests of more than 500 people across eight provinces and regions, from the prosperous east coast to less-developed western China.

The detentions come ahead of Friday, Dec. 21 — a date some say the Mayans prophesied would be the end of the world and which was the subject of the apocalyptic movie 2012.

Those detained are reported to be members of the group Almighty God, which is also called Eastern Lightning, after a phrase from the Bible's Book of Matthew.

Widely regarded as a heretical Christian sect, the group preaches that Jesus has reappeared as a woman in central China. It has been accused of targeting Christians, kidnapping and beating them to force conversions.

The CCTV report called the group a cult and accused it of attacking the party and the government, though it did not give any specifics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filling the spiritual void

- Chinese society has been in tumult as decades of rapid free-market economic growth discredit communist ideology, loosen social controls and pull hundreds of millions from the countryside to the cities.
- Into the spiritual void have rushed traditional Buddhist groups and Daoist practices, as well as evangelical Christian churches and other spiritual groups, some with unorthodox and apocalyptic visions.
- Eastern Lightning first appeared around 20 years ago, and the official Xinhua News Agency said that its members had "recently latched on to the Mayan doomsday prophesy to predict that the sun will not shine and electricity will not work for three days beginning on Dec. 21."

Building collapse leaves at least two dead in Italy

Firefighters clear rubble after two buildings collapsed overnight in Palermo, Italy, Tuesday. News reports say two people have died and two are unaccounted for. Survivors said a top floor had been added illegally onto one of the buildings recently. A half-dozen families managed to escape the collapse before the walls gave way and tumbled into the street in a heap of cement, furniture and housewares. A dozen people were injured.

FRANCESCO BAIAMONTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland. New law to spell out women's right to life-saving abortions

Ireland's government says it will draft a new law spelling out the right of women to receive abortions in cases where the pregnancy poses a risk to their lives — including from a woman's own threats to commit suicide.

For two decades, successive governments have resisted passing any law in support of a 1992 Supreme Court judgment that such abortions should be legal in Ireland.

Catholic conservatives particularly oppose the suicide-threat justification, arguing it could be used to expand access to abortion beyond relatively rare cases where a pregnancy endangers a woman's life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepal. Mob attacks police for failing to capture killer elephant

Police in Nepal say angry villagers have attacked a police station while demanding that officers gun down an elephant that has killed at least four people.

Police official Deepak Thapa said hundreds of protesters in the southern district of Chitwan also vandalized police vehicles.

Police fired tear gas to control the mob.

The elephant killed a couple on Saturday and at least two other people last month in the villages bordering the Chitwan forest.

Thapa says soldiers have been sent inside the forest to try to capture or kill the elephant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sex slur sparks school riot

Anonymous posting on Instagram.
Mounted police move in as anger explodes after teenage girls are called 'sluts' and 'whores'

ARON ANDERSSON
Metro World News in Sweden

The scene outside a school in Sweden where a riot erupted after an Instagram account called teenage girls "sluts" and "whores." HENRIK BRUNNSGARD/METRO SWEDEN

An anonymous Instagram account that posted images of teenage girls and called them "sluts" and "whores" has sparked riots outside a Swedish high school.

The account showed more than 200 images of teens reportedly as young as 13.

It contained details of alleged sexual activity.

Hundreds of teens gathered outside Plusgymnasiet high school in Gothenburg where the alleged owner of the account is believed to attend.

Police, some on horseback, went to the school as students threw objects and jumped on cars, witnesses said.

YouTube footage shows a large group scuffling.

At the high school, one girl was hit in the face, another was attacked and kicked by four girls, a witness told Metro.

"The teachers cried out and there was a panic on the whole school. It was so sick," said 17-year old student Janina Niemi, who was in the canteen when the fracas began.

"I saw one girl being kicked in the head. She was on the ground, there were four against one."

Some 27 people were arrested. A 17-year old girl has been taken into custody. The girl is suspected of having started the Instagram account.

The aftermath: The Instagram account was shut down but then migrated to Facebook.

Quoted

"It is completely unacceptable to say things like this about people."
Kirsi Niemi,
mother of student Janina Niemi.

Landmark study

3,000 Saudis say: Let our women drive

Is a ban on Saudi women driving destined to disappear? That could be the outcome if a landmark study helps sway the Muslim kingdom's leaders.

A Saudi online newspaper says more than 3,000 nationals of the kingdom have endorsed a study that recommends lifting a ban on women driving.

The list of backers includes prominent writers and academics.

Sabaq quoted on Tuesday Abdullah al-Alami, a researcher who contributed to the study, as saying it was sent to King Abdullah's main advisory body, the Shura Council, asking it to set a date to discuss it.

Key religious leaders in the ultraconservative kingdom want to keep the practice of not letting women drive.

But some religious scholars have backed a movement to encourage the king to change the laws. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Gangnam Style’ deemed top YouTube video

Gone viral. South Korean singer beat out Justin Bieber’s music video for ‘Baby’ as most-watched clip of the year

It’s getting harder and harder to find an Internet user who hasn’t seen the veritably viral “Gangnam Style” music video.

Now closing in on a staggering one-billion views, YouTube has officially named the clip by South Korean singer PSY as the top video of the year, both in Canada and globally.

In late November, “Gangnam Style” passed Justin Bieber’s music video for “Baby” as the most-watched YouTube video ever, with over 800 million views. Just a few weeks later, “Gangnam Style” is now about 160 million views ahead of “Baby.”

Bieber did crack YouTube’s annual top 10 list—not for one of his own songs, but for his lipsyncing sing-along to Canadian Carly Rae Jepsen’s monster hit “Call Me Maybe.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top 5 videos in Canada

1. “Gangnam Style” by PSY
2. “Somebody That I Used To Know” by Walk off the Earth
3. KONY 2012
4. “Call Me Maybe” lipsyncing sing-along featuring Justin Bieber and friends
5. Britney Spears learns “Gangnam Style” dance

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Death row

Governor spares obese inmate

The decision by Ohio's governor to spare a morbidly obese death-row inmate on legal grounds unrelated to the prisoner's weight means executions will likely carry on in the state next year.

Gov. John Kasich on Monday commuted the death sentence of Ronald Post to life without the possibility of parole, sparing him for the 1983 shooting death of Elyria motel clerk Helen Vantz in a robbery.

Kasich's decision to grant Post mercy mirrored the recommendation by the state parole board.

Had the governor considered the argument used in Federal Court — that executing Post would amount to cruel and unusual punishment — other death row inmates may have been able to use the same argument as a legal precedent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Corrupting morals'

Gore artist testifies in obscenity trial

A Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has defended himself in court, testifying that his gory works constitute art.

Remy Couture testified on his own behalf at a jury trial being heard Tuesday in Montreal.

Couture, 35, said the horror website he ran, Inner Depravity, which brought to life a psychopathic-killer character he created, is artistic and not pornographic.

He is charged with three counts of corrupting morals by distributing, possessing and producing obscene materials in a case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression and Canadian obscenity laws.

The material includes hundreds of photos and a pair of videos that depict gruesome murders, torture, assaults and necrophilia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspects in maple-syrup heist nabbed

Police say they have recovered two-thirds of the maple syrup stolen from a Quebec warehouse last summer. ISTOCK

Sticky fingers. Three people arrested in connection with theft of 2.7 million kilos of sweet, sweet inventory

There have been arrests in the case of a massive maple-syrup heist, police announced Tuesday as they celebrated a break in their months-long multi-jurisdictional search for the stolen sticky stuff.

Three people have been detained in connection with the theft of a large quantity of the national condiment from a warehouse in Quebec.

About 2.7 million kilos of maple syrup was reported missing after a routine inventory check last summer. Or, if your preferred unit of measurement is pancakes, the stolen amount would have provided a one-tablespoon topping for a whopping 183 million flapjacks.

Police say they have now recovered most of the missing syrup. They have also seized vehicles suspected of being used in the trafficking operation and equipment like scales and electronic lifts.

Those arrested are expected to face charges in a Trois-Rivières courtroom of theft, conspiracy, fraud and trafficking in stolen goods Tuesday.

There are arrest warrants out for five other people.

"This investigation is not over," Claude Denis of the Quebec provincial police said. "It's ongoing, and other arrests could follow."

Officers from the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement assisted the Quebec provincial police in the investigation — which featured interviews with 300 people in the maple-syrup industry in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and the northern U.S.

The alleged crime occurred at one of the several warehouses containing Quebec's maple-syrup stockpile, which is generally about 21 million kilos worth roughly $120 million.

The theft was discovered during a routine inventory check at a warehouse in St-Louis-de-Blandford, Que.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just a drop

Even though Quebec claims to produce four-fifths of the world's maple syrup, the missing barrels did not actually affect world prices.

- "In terms of volume it's very big but in relation to the entire inventory, it's small," said Simon Trepanier, acting director-general of the Quebec Federation of Maple Syrup Producers.
- The missing amount comprised barely one-tenth of the province's strategic reserve.

The Las Bodegas de Borja painting by Cecilia Gimenez, which sold on eBay for over 1,000 euros. METRO WORLD NEWS

60 years on throne

Chunk of Antarctic renamed Queen Elizabeth Land

Britain has renamed a large chunk of icy waste in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Foreign Office announced Tuesday that a 437,000-sq. kilometre section of the British Antarctic Territory has been renamed Queen Elizabeth Land to mark the monarch's 60 years on the throne.

The announcement was made as the 86-year-old queen visited the Foreign Office in London on Tuesday. It is the last official engagement of her Diamond Jubilee year.

Foreign Secretary William Hague said that "to be able to recognize the U.K.'s commitment to Antarctica with a permanent association with Her Majesty is a great honour."

Queen Elizabeth Land, which is twice the size of the United Kingdom, covers about a third of the Antarctic territory claimed by Britain in 1908. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trademark case

Legal battle pits gummy bear against chocolate teddy

A German gummy bear is taking on a foil-wrapped Swiss chocolate teddy in a legal showdown.

Cologne's regional court will decide on a complaint brought by Germany's Haribo GmbH against Switzerland's Lindt & Spruengli AG over alleged trademark violations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A package with Lindt's Goldteddy is shown in Berlin Tuesday. FERDINAND OSTROP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Worst art restorer in history' sells work on eBay

Cecilia Gimenez. Woman who did infamous restoration of Jesus Christ portrait has sold one of her paintings for almost $1,500 online

She turned Jesus Christ into an ape with a tunic, the creator of an image that became an Internet phenomenon that was printed on everything from notebooks to underpants. Now Cecilia Gimenez, 81, famous for the "worst art restoration in history," has silenced critics with a lucrative sale of her artwork for over 1,000 euros.

Las Bodegas de Borja, a painting of Gimenez's hometown in Spain inspired a bidding war on the auction site eBay. There were more than 50 bids for the piece, signed by the artist, which eventually sold Tuesday morning for 1,080 euros ($1,409) — almost four times the original price.

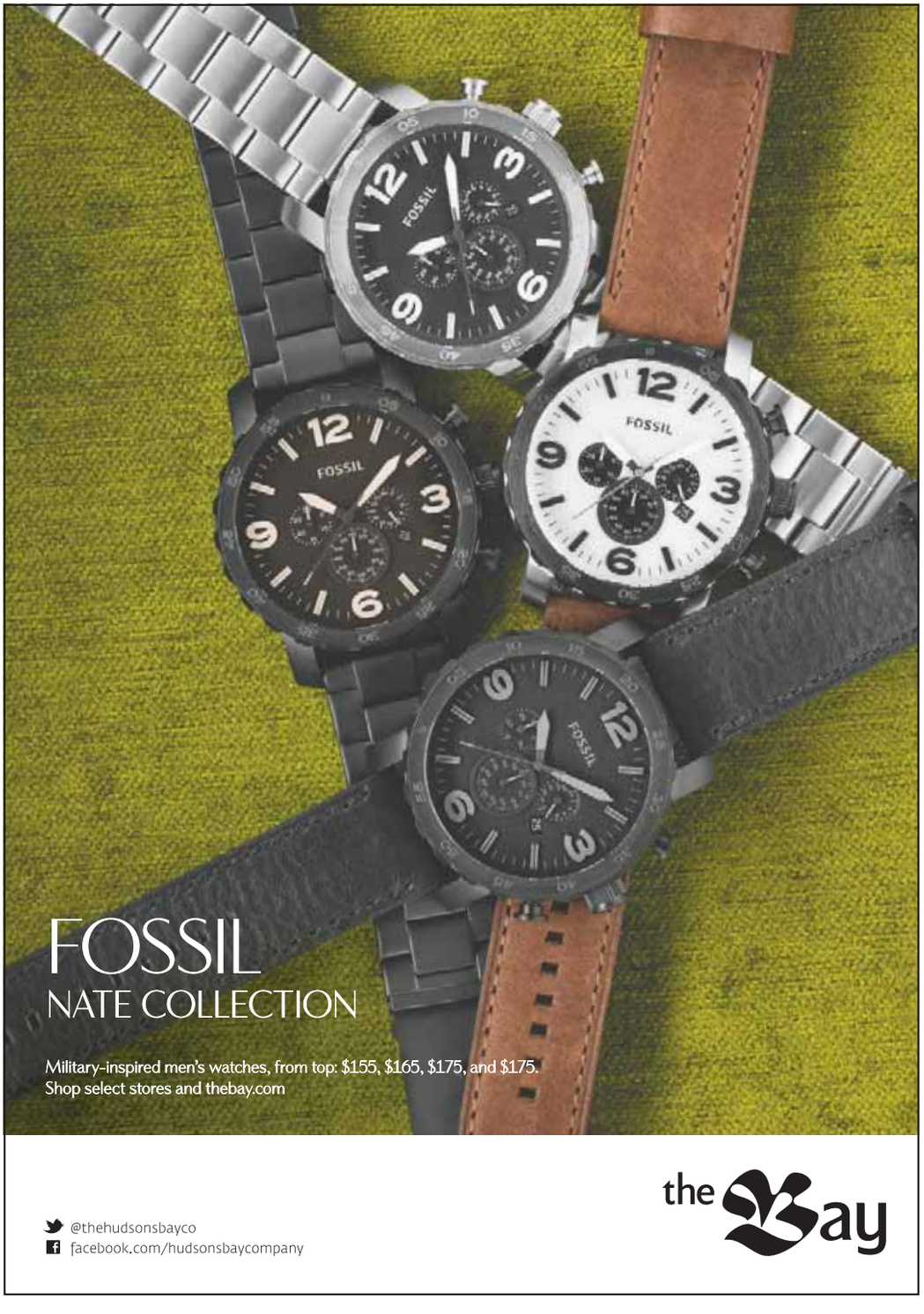
"I am so pleased with the outcome," Gimenez told Metro. The proceeds will be donated to the Caritas charity for sufferers of muscular dystrophy, which affects her son, and Gimenez hopes "with the money we have gathered these people will have a better Christmas."

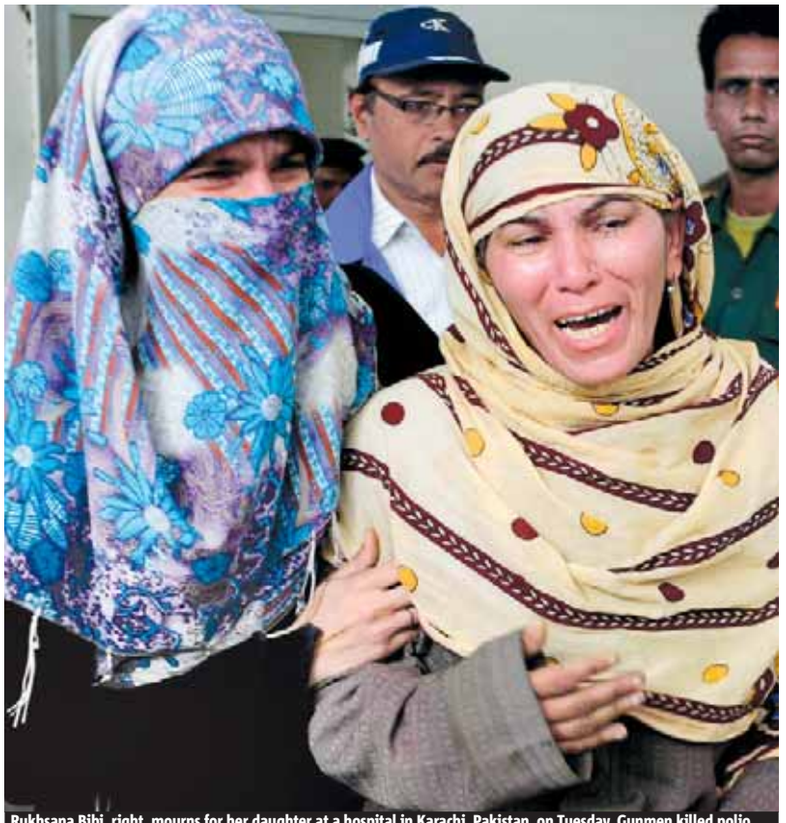
The artist has suffered breakdowns following criticism of her restoration of the Ecce Homo fresco in her local church. "I felt really bad, I'm a little more quiet now," says Gimenez, who still blames the church for not allowing her to complete the restoration.

In her community, she continues to command respect. "Cecilia is a person who is loved here in Borja city," Mayor Francisco Miguel Arilla told Metro. "She will always be a treasure."

But despite the fresco continuing to attract 300 paying visitors a weekend, Gimenez has quit restoration to focus on painting. The decision has upset her numerous Internet fan clubs. "A major disappointment," said one member of the largest Ecce Homo Facebook fan club with over 12,000 members. LUISA CASTRO AND KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

The 'Ecce Homo' fresco before and after Cecilia Gimenez's "restoration." WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





Rukhsana Bibi, right, mourns for her daughter at a hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, on Tuesday. Gunmen killed polio worker Madiha Bibi and several other people working on a government polio-vaccination campaign in two different Pakistani cities on Tuesday, officials said. The attacks were likely an attempt by the Taliban to counter an initiative the militant group has long opposed. FAREED KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 women working on polio campaign killed in Pakistan

Suspects. Taliban, a Pashtun-dominated movement, suspected as shootings in Karachi all took place in areas populated by Pashtuns

Gunmen shot dead five women working on UN-backed polio vaccination efforts in two different Pakistani cities on Tuesday, officials said, a major setback for a campaign that international health officials consider vital to contain the crippling disease but which Taliban insurgents say is a cover for espionage.

Pakistan is one of only three countries where polio is endemic. Militants however accuse health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and claim the vaccine makes children sterile. Taliban commanders in the troubled northwest tribal region have also said vaccinations can't go forward until the U.S. stops drone strikes in the country.

Insurgent opposition to the campaign grew last year after it was revealed that a Pakistani doctor ran a fake vaccination program to help the CIA track down al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, who was hiding in the town of Abbottabad in the country's northwest.

Rukhsana Bibi, whose 18-year-old daughter Madiha was killed in Karachi, seemed to blame the organizers of the vaccination campaign for her death. "Why are you doing this by coming here?" said Bibi, standing next to her daughter's body at the hospital. "This is a prohibited area. Taliban are here."

Madiha was the only source of income for the family, which includes seven other children, said Bibi, whose husband is too sick to work. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attacks

The women, three of whom were teenagers, were shot in the head at close range.

- Four of them were gunned down in the southern port city of Karachi, and the fifth in a village outside the northwest city of Peshawar.
- The attacks in Karachi occurred within 15 minutes in three different areas of the city that are far apart. In each case, the gunmen used nine-millimetre pistols.
- Two of the women were killed while they were in a house in Karachi giving children polio drops. The other two were travelling between houses when they were attacked.

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4 charged in plot to attack convention

South Africa. Police say it's unclear how far along the planning was for this alleged attack on the ANC

Four white men in South Africa face treason and terrorism charges over an alleged plot that included plans to attack the ongoing African National Congress political party convention and kill President Jacob Zuma and others, authorities said Tuesday.

The organizers called their plan "the Slaughter of Mangaung," using the ANC's name for its meeting in the central city also known as Bloemfontein, prosecutors said.

They planned to use mortars and machine-guns to kill leaders, possibly at a dining hall the men previously took photographs of at the University of the Free State, where the leadership meeting is being held, officials said.

The men were arrested in different locations across South Africa on Sunday, Brig. Billy Jones of the South African Police Service said on Tuesday. He confirmed the men were found with weapons, but declined to offer specifics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Confronting apartheid

The ANC, which was once the main liberation movement challenging apartheid, has been the nation's governing party since the 1994 elections. President Zuma, 70, overwhelmingly won re-election as the ANC's president Tuesday after facing a challenge from his deputy Kgalema Motlanthe.

Alleged plotters, from left, Hein Boonzaair, Johan Prinsloo, Mark Troller and Martin Keevey appear in the Bloemfontein Court in South Africa Tuesday on charges of treason and terrorism. CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters take on Egyptian leader

Egyptian protesters opposing President Mohammed Morsi chant slogans during a demonstration at the Presidential Palace in Cairo on Tuesday. Hundreds of people gathered in front of the Presidential Palace and in Tahrir Square to protest against Morsi and the alleged rigging of the first round of voting in the constitutional referendum. DANIEL BEREHULAK/GETTY IMAGES

Missing persons

New inquiry in 1988 South Africa disappearances

A specialized missing persons unit in South Africa has opened a new investigation into the 1988 disappearance of two men last seen in the company of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the former wife of Nelson Mandela, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Authorities say new information caused them to reopen the case of Lolo Sono and Sibon-iso Shabalala. The two young men figured into Madikizela-Mandela's chaotic life in Soweto when she ran a football club and faced a host of allegations accusing her and those under her of committing violent attacks.

Madikizela-Mandela divorced Mandela in 1997.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut shooting

Liberian students send condolences to Newtown

Schoolchildren in the West African nation of Liberia are sending their condolences to the victims of the Connecticut school shooting that left 20 children dead.

The Liberian children on Tuesday presented a giant-size sympathy card and flowers to the United States Embassy in memory of the lives lost during the shooting attack.

Seven-year-old Yaya Bette said: "It is not fair because other people's children were killed for nothing ... so we have come to say sorry."

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Deborah Malac said she was "deeply touched" and the ceremony showed her that "everyone shares the sorrow of the people of Newtown, Connecticut."

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Student dies after hazing ritual's booze-filled night

A vodka ceremony. Nearly two-dozen frat members face charges — and they could also be expelled from university

Nearly two dozen fraternity members at a U.S. university face hazing-related charges after a night of drinking ended in tragedy.

David Bogenberger, 19, was found unresponsive at a fraternity house at Northern Illinois University on Nov. 2.

His blood alcohol level was about five times the legal limit for driving, the DeKalb County Coroner's Office said.

The coroner ruled Bogenberger's cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia, with alcohol intoxication as a contributing cause.

The DeKalb Police Department said its investigation found the fraternity hosted an unsanctioned event that wasn't registered with the university or the fraternity's national chapter.

Quoted

"We have no desire for revenge. Rather, we hope that some significant change will come from David's death."

Statement by the family of David Bogenberger

"The event that night involved the pledges (freshmen) rotating between several rooms in the fraternity house, being asked a series of questions, and then being provided cups of vodka and other liquor to drink," police said.

"This resulted in the pledges drinking a large quantity of alcohol in about a two-hour time period."

Police said several other pledges reported getting sick and passing out due to excessive alcohol consumption.

Bogenberger's family said they appreciate law enforcement professionals who investigated David Bogenberger's death and "seek accountability for a horrible event."

"Alcohol poisoning claims far too many young, healthy lives," the family's statement said.

Five members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity are charged with felony hazing, while 17 members face misdemeanour hazing charges.

In addition to the charges, the university said 31 students are accused of violating the school's code of conduct. Those students could face penalties ranging from reprimand to expulsion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daring cons flee jail by sliding down 20 storeys

Crime scene tape surrounds a high-rise federal jail in Chicago on Tuesday after a daring escape by two convicted bank robbers. Their path to freedom? The makeshift rope shown on the right. They busted away concrete to enlarge a window, climbed out onto the rope and clambered down ... about 20 storeys!

PHOTOS BY SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Miss USA contestant

Beauty queen has to pay $5M

A beauty queen who claimed this year's Miss USA contest was fixed has been ordered to pay the pageant $5 million for defamation.

An arbitrator said the comments from Miss Pennsylvania USA Sheena Monnin were false, harmful and malicious.

Monnin had alleged that the five finalists had been selected in advance of the pageant's live telecast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gun tragedy

Husband charged in wife's suicide

An upstate New York man has been charged with manslaughter in his wife's suicide by gunshot.

Authorities allege he showed despondent Kathie Skellie, 59, how to fire a shotgun before leaving her alone in their Glen Falls home to go hunting.

Willard Skellie, 69, was being held in jail Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A magic moment with police puppy Elf

Fred Moffat and his three-year-old son James are met by Elf, a canine police puppy, at the doors of the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina as part of the very first K9 Cops for Kids Christmas campaign. Corporal Sean Cleary, right, founded the program in Saskatchewan and hopes to make it a national annual event. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

Stanley Cup to go to a beer league?

An Edmonton MP is supporting an idea that the Stanley Cup be awarded to an amateur team if the NHL labour dispute isn't settled in time to save the season.

Brent Rathgeber suggests the Cup could be the prize in a national competition to determine the best non-pro team in Canada.

A group of recreational players made a similar suggestion during the 2004-05 lockout when they argued in court that Lord Stanley's mug wasn't the exclusive property of the NHL.

An out-of-court settlement back then said the Cup's trustees have the option — but not the obligation — of awarding the prize to another team if there is no NHL champion.

"I propose that the trustees exercise that very discretion and award the Stanley Cup to the best amateur or beer league or women's or sledge hockey team in Canada," Rathgeber writes in his official blog.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Collection changes this Holiday Season

There is no garbage/recycling collection on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 and New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31. These changes are marked in your collection calendar.

Collection schedules change by moving one day forward.

Usual collection day	Moves to
Monday (nights): Dec 24 and Dec 31	**Tuesday:** Dec 25 and Jan 1
Tuesday: Dec 25 and Jan 1	**Wednesday:** Dec 26 and Jan 2
Wednesday: Dec 26 and Jan 2	**Thursday:** Dec 27 and Jan 3
Thursday: Dec 27 and Jan 3	**Friday:** Dec 28 and Jan 4
Friday: Dec 28 and Jan 4	**Saturday:** Dec 29 and Jan 5

Christmas tree collection begins the week of December 31 (on garbage collection days). Remember to remove all decorations, tinsel, stands and nails. The City will not collect Christmas trees set out in plastic or in tree bags.

There are nine versions of the calendar reflecting different collection schedules. Using online maps, you can determine your local schedule. Full calendars and one-page collection schedules are available online at

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When shoppers hit 'like,' stores listen

Social media. Retailers decide what products to stock up on and what deals to offer based on online feedback

A shopper uses her smartphone at a Best Buy store in Florida in this Nov. 22 photo,. By using social media, consumers can influence what products retailers carry during the crucial holiday buying season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Facebook isn't just for goofy pictures and silly chatter. Whether shoppers know it or not, their actions online help dictate what's in stores during this holiday season.

After polling customers on the social media site, Macy's decided to carry denim jeans in bright neon hues rather than pastels. Wal-Mart for the first time decided to let customers vote on which toys they want discounted. And to better plan orders for the decorative flags she sells, a small business owner in Mississippi is running a contest that encourages customers to chime in about how they're decorating their homes this winter.

The impact of social media on a company's bottom line is tough to quantify, with no hard data on how millions of Facebook fans and Twitter followers translate into sales for stores.

But during the holiday shopping season, a roughly two-month period when retailers can make up to 40 per cent of their annual revenue, stores are uncovering a valuable use for all the seemingly useless online muttering: market research.

The result is that whenever folks press the "like" button to give their seal of approval for a particular company's page or make a comment on how much they like the leather boots they just bought, they're helping everyone from independently-owned small shops to the biggest retailers make decisions about what products to stock up on, what to play up on the sales floor and what promotions to offer online. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Facebook's real-name policy is verboten, German official decrees

Berlin. Data protection commissioner says company is in breach of free-speech rules

An official in Germany's Schleswig-Holstein state says that Facebook cannot require users to register with their real names, because that contravenes both German law and European free-speech rules. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook will fight a German privacy watchdog's demand to allow users to register with fake names, insisting Tuesday that its current practice fully complies with the law.

The California-based social networking site has long required users to register with their real names — a policy that the data protection commissioner of Schleswig-Holstein state says is in breach of German law and European rules designed to protect free speech online.

The commissioner, Thilo Weichert, ordered Facebook on Monday to rescind its real name policy immediately.

"We believe the orders are without merit, a waste of German taxpayers' money and we will fight it vigorously," Facebook said in a statement. The company claims that its real-name policy is intended to protect users.

Weichert told The Associated Press that Facebook has two weeks to respond. If it fails to comply with the order, his office can impose a penalty against the company, said Weichert.

The maximum fine would be only about $65,000 — peanuts for a multinational company, but nevertheless a symbolic blow that could also lead to a tougher stance from other German and European privacy regulators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Air Canada Rouge takes flight July 1

Discount travel. New carrier will focus on leisure travel market, with destinations in Europe, Caribbean

Air Canada's chief commercial officer Ben Smith, right, and Michael Friisdahl, CEO of Air Canada Leisure Group, second right, unveil new leisure airline Air Canada Rouge in downtown Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada is jumping into the low-cost leisure travel market with the launch of its new Rouge airline, which will begin flying on Canada Day to destinations in Europe and the Caribbean.

The airline will start with flights from Toronto to Venice, Italy and Edinburgh, Scotland — two destinations that currently aren't served by Air Canada — and will serve Athens, Greece from Toronto and Montreal.

Air Canada's existing flights to Cuba, the Dominican Republican, Jamaica and Costa Rica will be flown by the discount carrier from Toronto.

The destinations are areas where demand for leisure travel has been growing, said Ben Smith, Air Canada's chief commercial officer. But many are routes that didn't generate adequate profits under Air Canada's existing cost structure.

"The creation of this carrier is to assist us in serving many destinations that our existing model does not work on a competitive basis," Smith said.

The airline says flights to Venice, Edinburgh and Athens start at "special introductory fares" of $949 round-trip, including all taxes, fees, charges and surcharges.

Flights to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica will start at $269, one-way, while Cuba is offered starting at $538 round-trip. All the introductory fares, which are available until Dec. 25, are based on Toronto departures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BVO. Drink additive is safe, Health Canada says

Major soft-drink makers and Health Canada say the use of brominated vegetable oil in Canadian beverages is safe, despite a growing movement elsewhere to ban its use.

The additive, which is used to cloud and stop separation in some drinks, has been banned in most of Europe for decades and Japan recently discontinued its use. However, BVO continues to be used in popular drinks sold in Canada, including some flavours of Gatorade, Powerade, Fresca, Mountain Dew and Amp Energy Drink.

BVO is classified as a food additive, but there is limited knowledge of its composition, researchers have said. It does contain bromine, which is also in flame retardants and has been found to build up in body lipids. A Health Canada spokesman said there are no health risks associated with BVO when it is used according to regulations, which sets out that 15 parts per million can be used in citrus or spruce-flavoured beverages.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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A high-risk driver is someone who, due to a combination of factors, presents a high likelihood of a claim. There is a combination of things that would work together to give you this status, as it's usually not just one incident. New drivers or drivers who have multiple tickets and accidents on their driving record are typically labeled as high-risk drivers. This presents a high likelihood of having an at-fault accident that the insurance company will have to pay for in the event of a claim.

High-risk drivers usually pay much higher insurance rates; and some insurance companies will not renew their policy. If that occurs, there are still options for the high-risk driver.

Insurance for High Risk Drivers. Even if you have been with the same company for many years, the level of risk may lead to a non-renewal of the policy. When faced with the inability to qualify for a standard policy, high-risk drivers can turn to specialty auto insurance companies for coverage. Today, there are many more choices than there once were for high-risk drivers to obtain coverage. A number of insurance companies have stepped up to fill the gap and help these drivers get back on the road. It's important that high-risk drivers take this seriously and focus on becoming safer drivers in order to get back to a low-risk status.

Saving on High-Risk Insurance. By its nature, high-risk insurance costs more than a standard policy. Because the risk of a claim is much higher, the insurance company must spread some of the risk and increase the cost of premium; for protection in the event of a large claim. This does not mean there is no way to save on insurance if you are a high-risk driver; it's just a little trickier. The number one way for a high-risk driver to save money is to shop around. Use a quoting site like InsuranceHotline.com, to get quotes from over 30 insurance companies and compare insurance rates for free. You could save money in just a few minutes.

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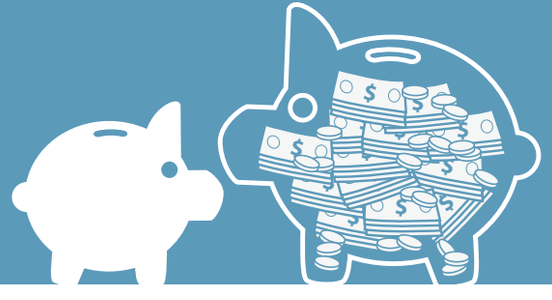

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Airfare ads must show total ticket price, feds say

End to hidden fees?
Cost of optional services such as beverages and baggage must also be displayed for consumers

The federal government says advertised airfares for flights originating in Canada must include all relevant fees so the travelling public can easily understand the total cost.

Transport Minister Denis Lebel said Tuesday that advertised prices for the public must include all taxes, fees and other charges so that consumers can clearly see the total cost of an airline ticket, with no hidden fees.

The amendments apply to ads in any media for travel services within or originating in Canada.

Market Minute

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Repeat offenders can be fined up to $25,000.

The "all-in" ticket price doesn't need to include fees for optional services or amenities such as in-flight entertainment, meals, beverages and baggage — but the price of the options must be displayed with taxes included.

Excluded from the new regulations are flights originating outside Canada, package travel services, loyalty rewards programs and charter services booked through corporate travel offices.

"We are protecting Canadian air travellers by helping them see, clearly and up front, the full cost of air tickets, so they can make informed travel choices," Lebel said.

"In addition to benefiting consumers by ensuring transparent advertising, these regulations will promote fair competition between all advertisers."

Some airlines announced earlier this year that they would move to an all-in approach in advance of the changes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CUDDLE PARTY MARKS END OF WORLD

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Looking for something to do the day the world ends?

How about a Cuddle Party? There's one on the Last Day, this coming Friday, somewhere in Calgary. To ward off kuddle krashers, you don't get to know the final location until you pay your 20 bucks and sign up. Then, apparently, you turn up in your pyjamas ready to cuddle. Or not.

WTF? You don't know about Cuddle Parties? Well, let me bring you up to speed. The Cuddle Party is the brainchild of two New York relationship counsellors (you're surprised?), Reid Mihalko and Marcia Baczynski, who started them in their "tiny Manhattan apartment" in 2004. They spread immediately to the Left Coast, and from there to Vancouver and Calgary, the apparent, er, hot bed of Canadian cuddling.

In a nutshell

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Those eastern bastards may have to freeze in the dark, but Calgary has Cuddle Power to keep it warm.

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Organizers are adamant. No sex. If you get turned on, according to the Rules (and there are plenty of them), just wait and it will go away. So they say. Just to make sure: No alcohol or shorts allowed. Pyjamas with drawstrings — this is a lace-free zone.

The first 40 minutes of the event involves a presentation on How to Cuddle, giving leery participants enough time to work up the courage to cuddle some guy you might not care to sit next to on the bus, especially considering the way he's looking at you.

But don't worry! By the end of the evening, you'll have discovered the Joy of Cuddling and will be prepared to cuddle anyone or anything. Or not. One of the features of the Cuddle Party is that it offers participants an opportunity to learn how to say NO in the clinch. Each touch essentially has to be negotiated in advance. If the cuddlee says Yes (Not Yes! Yes! Never Yes! Yes!) then the cuddlor can proceed with some respectful, non-sexual touching.

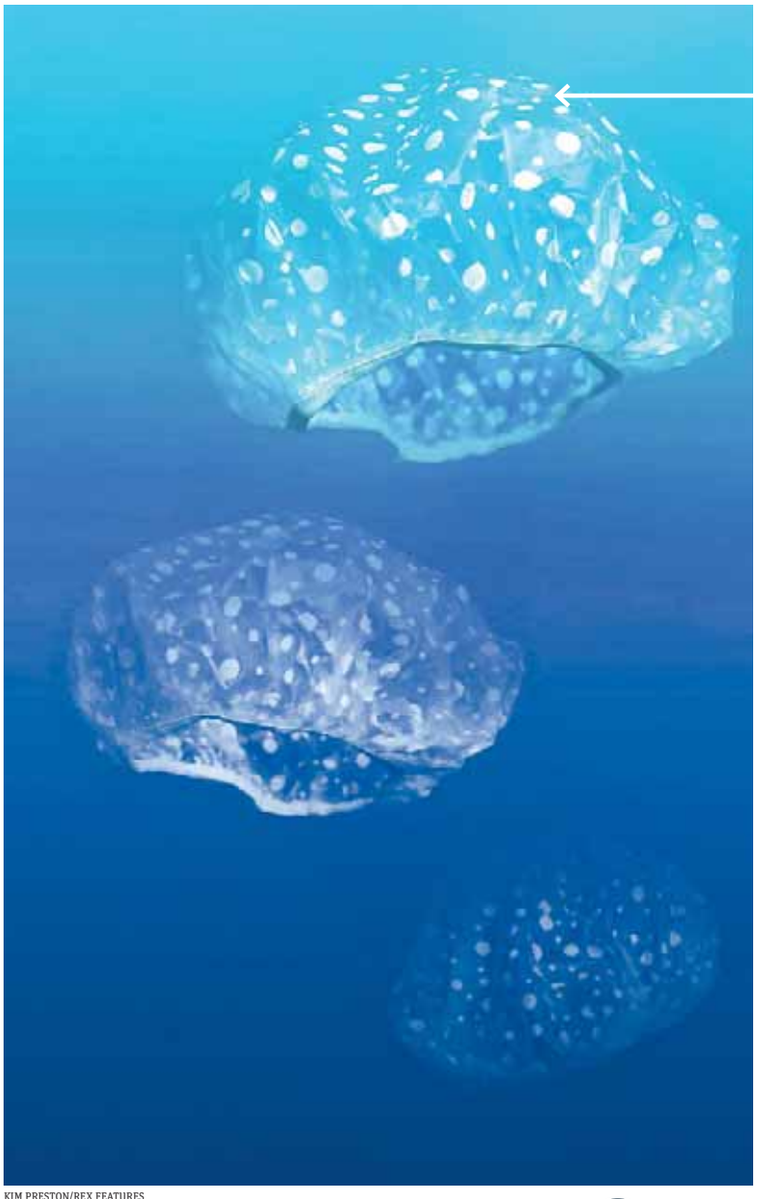
This advanced course in touching strangers leads to a lot of (painfully) sincere, convoluted language from participant testimonials on the website cuddleparty.com about learning to say no in order to say yes, or is it the other way around? And about how cuddling is not always about sex and various other things guys will say when they hope to get lucky.

Look, I can't think of anything I'd rather do less on my last day on Earth than cuddle with the cast of Portlandia, but that's just me. I can Just Say No, can't I?

But you go ahead and get to Yes. Just remember, that's all you're getting.

If you haven't heard of Cuddle Parties yet, get well acquainted. CUDDLEPARTY.COM

This looks a bit fishy



KIM PRESTON/REX FEATURES

'Animal' photography

Plastic shot to look like sea creatures

This image of odd-looking sea creatures would have marine biologists baffled, but it in fact shows an everyday object shot to represent sea animals. The project, titled Plastic Pacific, was created by Australian artist Kim Preston, 33, who wanted to draw attention to the devastating effect of plastic buildup in oceans around the globe. METRO

Artist's viewpoint

"I hoped that the prettiness of the images would draw people in more than if I showed the far uglier reality."

Kim Preston, digital designer and illustrator, 33, from Melbourne, Australia.

Passionate on the preservation of our oceans, Preston added that "this is a photographically-based rant against the irresponsible overuse of plastic. I recently obtained a scuba-diving certificate in Indonesia and seeing all of the plastic caught on the reefs inspired this project."

Process of photograph

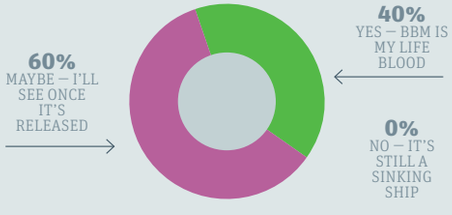
Creativity used to shoot under budget

Shot in her garden shed, Preston used a blue fabric as the backdrop and hung all the objects from a clothes rack while she photographed them. For the shower caps, she would quickly blow into them before snapping a shot with a wireless shutter release. She had planned to shoot the series inside a fish tank, but her lack of budget forced her to become more creative. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

RIM's BlackBerry 10 is getting rave reviews. Are you buying into the hype?



Twitter

@CDKirkwood:
I know at least one American is laughing wildly in his hotel room after turning on the TV and#ctvnews 's top story is a maple syrup heist

@michellewilks:
Canada, you're really not helping with the stereotypes when you arrest people for stealing maple syrup... Hahaha

@_jessczar:
Maple syrup heist? #onlyincanada

@allllllllllly:
I have Dickey fever. #bluejays

@trevor_theobald:
I think I just came up with the best nickname "R. Ace Dickey" #nailedit #Jays

@TSmitty9:
Pretending to believe in the Mayan apocalypse is a great way to get out of buying Christmas presents. #advice

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SCENE 2

End of the world viewing

The end of the world may or may not be upon us, but Hollywood has been preparing us for this moment for decades. The higher the stakes, the bigger the drama, and there's no higher stakes than the fate of the entire world. So here's our picks for the best movies about the end of the world.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

1. Children of Men (2006)

Alfonso Cuarón's adaptation of P.D. James' novel about a world unraveling after women stop being able to get pregnant is a masterpiece, a gripping and hyper-realistic look at how society deals with calamity. The real tragedy is how little attention it got upon its release. Watch it now, while you still have time.

2. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Stanley Kubrick made it OK to laugh in the face of possible nuclear annihilation with this pointed satire of escalation and mutually assured destruction, culminating with Slim Pickens' famous ride on a warhead.

3. Melancholia (2011)

Dazzling visuals and an impressive, against-type performance by Kirsten Dunst buoy this divisive film from Lars von Trier about a family trying to get through a wedding while a rogue planet hurtles toward Earth, threatening total annihilation.

4. The Cabin in the Woods (2012)

Spoiler alert: Drew Goddard's hilarious, twist-filled take on horror movies (co-written by Joss Whedon) is more than it seems.

5. Night of the Comet (1984)

Call it the Omega Valley Girls. In this sci-fi horror-comedy gem, two no-nonsense teenage sisters contend with zombies in the fallout of the titular comet reducing Los Angeles to rubble.

6. Last Night (1998)

A quiet, delightful indie precursor to Seeking a Friend for the End of the World, Don McKeller's film gives a distinctly Canadian look at the end of the world. Toronto residents have had months to prepare, so there's little need for panic.

7. The Road (2009)

A gut-punch of a film, John Hillcoat's screen adaptation is just as chilling and stark as the Cormac McCarthy novel on which it is based. The world may not actually end in this one, but from the looks of what's become of things, it might as well have.

8. Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (2012)

A refreshing take on the asteroid headed to Earth plot, this road movie with Steve Carell and Keira Knightley is surprisingly charming — and features a barrage of comic cameos as the main characters head out across the country with three weeks to live.

9. On the Beach (1959)

Long before CGI could render total destruction in realistic detail, we had Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner waiting out the end in Australia after a global nuclear war in this Cold War-era drama, notable for its non-Hollywood ending.

10. Deep Impact (1998)

In a year that brought competing projects about an asteroid on a collision course with the Earth, the scrappy Deep Impact is actually the superior movie to Michael Bay's bloated, Aerosmith-ballad-filled Armageddon if for no other reason than it gave us President Morgan Freeman. Also, points for casting Elijah Wood.

Week of Armageddon

Check out Metro all week for more stories of apocalyptic proportions.

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‘It’s gonna be cold, it’s gonna be grey, and it’s gonna last you for the rest of your life’

Movies. The classic Bill Murray quote stands the test of time as the latest mid-life crisis movie, This is 40, arrives this weekend

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Robert Smigel, left, gives advice to Paul Rudd in This Is 40, an unfiltered, comedic look inside the life of an American family from writer/director/producer Judd Apatow. HANDOUT

Forty isn’t old, but Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd, the leads in the new Judd Apatow comedy This is 40, are confronting middle age and not always liking what they see.

Mid-life ruts have supplied the basis for many movies.

The best-known age-angst film has to be American Beauty. Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey, who won a best actor Oscar for his work) has a classic case of the mid-life blues. Depressed, he allows himself to be pushed around by his employer and his wife and he’s developed an unhealthy crush on his daughter’s friend. To restart his life, he quits his job, blackmails his boss and deals with his wife’s infidelity.

“I feel like I’ve been in a coma for the past 20 years,” he says. “And I’m just now waking up.”

Things don’t work out well for Lester, but weatherman Phil Connors’s (Bill Murray) mid life crisis has a better outcome.

At the beginning of Groundhog Day he’s a drunk, suicide prone curmudgeon who sums up his outlook like this, “I’ll give you a winter prediction: It’s gonna be cold, it’s gonna be grey, and it’s gonna last you for the rest of your life.”

When he starts living the same day over and over again, however, he begins to see the beauty of life.

Bill Murray is also forced to reflect on his existence in Broken Flowers, when he receives a mysterious letter telling him of a son he didn’t know about.

“Well, the past is gone, I know that,” he says. “The future isn’t here yet, whatever it’s going to be. So, all there is, is this. The present. That’s it.”

Mid-life crises aren’t the domain of men, however.

In The Bridges of Madison County, Meryl Streep plays Francesca, an Iowa housewife who shatters the midlife doldrums by having a brief but meaningful affair with National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid (played by Clint Eastwood). Of her affair she says, “everything I knew to be true about myself up until then was gone. I was acting like another woman, yet I was more myself than ever before.”

The best-loved mid-life movie might be Shirley Valentine, the bittersweet tale of an English housewife who leaves her humdrum existence behind for a happier life in the Greek islands.

“I used to be The Mother,” she says. “I used to be The Wife. But now I’m Shirley Valentine again.”

Movie Review

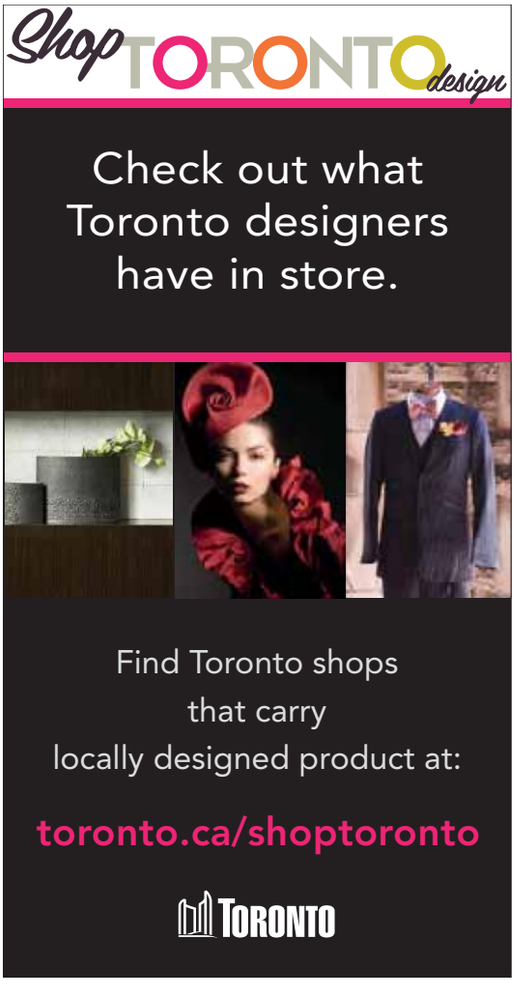
A Guilt Trip down the middle lane

The Guilt Trip

Director. Anne Fletcher

Stars. Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand

What made The Guilt Trip an interesting premise also ultimately works against it. Sure, crafting a road-trip comedy with Barbra Streisand as mother to Seth Rogen’s coddled adult son may attract fans from disparate camps, but by skirting down the middle, the comedy ends up compromised for both sides. Ultimately, the Babs side wins as Streisand’s overbearing Jewish matriarch makes Rogen look like he’s just holding back. STEVE GOW/METRO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Hugh Jackman returns to reprise his role as Wolverine in the Marvel Comics latest movie. HANDOUT

Claw confidential

Wolverine. With Hugh Jackman returning to his Marvel Comics role, we look at other characters with some killer appendages

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

Snikt

The most clawsome pincers are the ones that pack an audio punch.

Often when setting the dinner table for the family during my childhood, I'd surreptitiously snag three extra butter knives from the cutlery drawer and pocket them. Just as we were about to chow down, I'd reveal their purpose. Wedged between my fingers they'd extrude, Wolverine-style. Sure the dull hummus spreaders may have lacked the menace of adamantium, the unbreakable super alloy bonded to Wolvie's bones in the Marvel Comics, but sold with flared nostrils and feral eyes, I could at least get my parents to feign fear while my older brother rolled his eyes.

With Hugh Jackman once again growing out his sideburns to reprise the part of the Albertan X-Man in a new solo Wolverine film, it's time to cut to the quick on this claw confidential bubs.

Long before vampires glittered in the sun like Swarovski crystals and were portrayed by hunky salon fresh models, they were gaunt, pointy eared and in dire need of cosmetic dentistry. Max Schreck in his Count Orlock makeup wrote the rules of the vampire style guide for decades to follow. The Nosferatu star's shadow alone was enough to give one a full-blown case of the creeps. While the instinct would be to run like hell if you caught wind of the bloodsucker, you couldn't help but take a couple mental pictures of his overgrown talons before burning rubber.

Han, the karate-tournament-staging drug kingpin from Bruce Lee's Enter the Dragon, was another claw culture trailblazer. The disgraced former Shaolin student has a prosthetic hand he swaps out for a fistful of killer appendages. In their climactic scrape, Han snaps on a furry bear claw and later a foot-long four-blader. This claw tandem bares responsibility for the slash marks on Lee's physique in the most iconic images of the late martial artist. Aside from its sinister utility, that final bladed claw would come in real handy at Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Then there's goth icon Edward Scissorhands, whose hedge trimmers are the Swiss army knife of claws. Not only can they pick locks and trim hair, but they also have high-end landscape architecture applications that are unparalleled. Name another hero who can sculpt shrubbery into zoo animal-sized Chia Pets? Still, Edward's tragic inability to hold hands or scratch an itch provide a sharp reminder that the best claws are of the wearable or retractable variety.

The most clawsome pincers are the ones that pack an audio punch to supplement the fierce fashion statement. When Wolverine unleashes his skewers, the accompanying sound lets you know he means business. Just as sonically bold are the rhythmic metal on metal clanks of Freddy Krueger toying with his razor-fingered leather glove. When Elm Street insomniacs hear the dream invader scraping a pipe, they scurry faster than mice dropped into a python terrarium.

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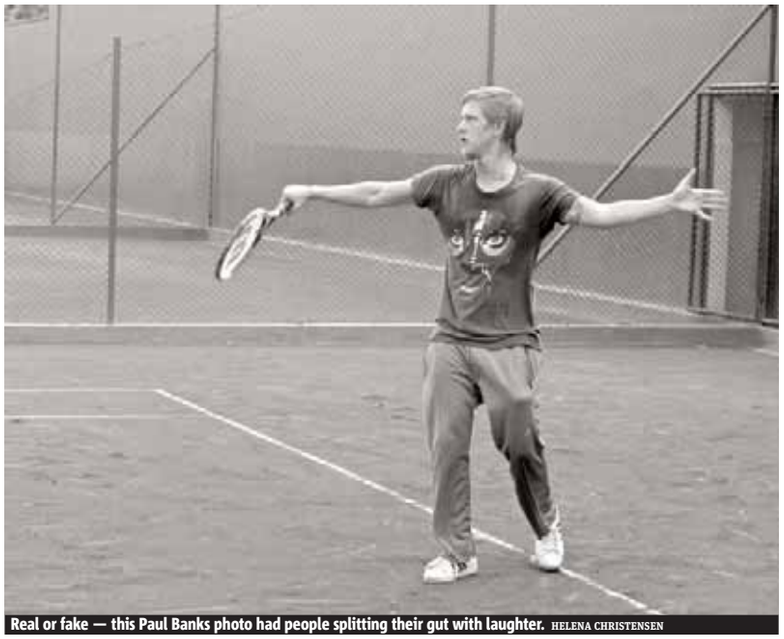

Real or fake — this Paul Banks photo had people splitting their gut with laughter. HELENA CHRISTENSEN

Carried away with Kaufman routine

Paul Banks. Interpol frontman's second solo album has him channeling his inner comedian

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Interpol

Rumours have been floating around Interpol, as they are prone to do. But Banks wants to put at least one of those to rest while at the same time giving a clear indication of what not to expect.

- **Quote.** While Banks is quick to confirm that Interpol is very much still a band, he is also quick to quell expectations that you might hear any Interpol songs during his set. "That's so far from being a possibility," he says. "That'd be really weird, man. Those aren't my songs. I'm (only) 25 per cent creator and owner of those songs."

Paul Banks wants to let you in on something: That tennis photo is a joke.

"There's probably a lot of people that see this photo of me looking angry, playing tennis, and they think that I'm serious, or that it's actually me doing a shot where I think I look cool," says the Interpol singer, who is touring to promote his second album away from his band. "But I'm kind of a disciple of Andy Kaufman; I kind of like jokes that people don't get.

"That one-in-10 people gets the fact that something is wrapped up in humour, it's that much funnier to that person and that's the person that's on my wavelength," he says.

Banks's humour has historically gotten lost in the mix of a band whose music has thrived off a sense of cryptic disconnect and whose image has most often been projected with a cinematic sophistication. But he says when he is working with Interpol guitarist Daniel Kessler, there's a different vibe than with his solo material.

"If Daniel presents this incredibly elegant piece of music that evokes certain sentiments and ideas in me, the thing I'm going to gravitate toward is not thinking some sportscaster is hot," he says. "Whereas when I'm working on my own things I can just be carried by any idea that comes to mind."

Indeed. On his first non-Interpol album, 2009's Julian Plenti is ... Skyscraper, Banks did record a song called Girl on the Sporting News. This latest album, simply entitled Banks, features a few tracks that have similarly silly premises, but are presented in ways that casual listeners might take seriously. One track in particular sounds like an upbeat pop song, were it not for him singing, almost mechanically, "I'll sue you."

"You might see that as somehow literal," he says. "But that's a song where I'm exploring the mindset of someone that I'm totally not. ... That's very much like that thing that actors say about how playing the villain is fun."

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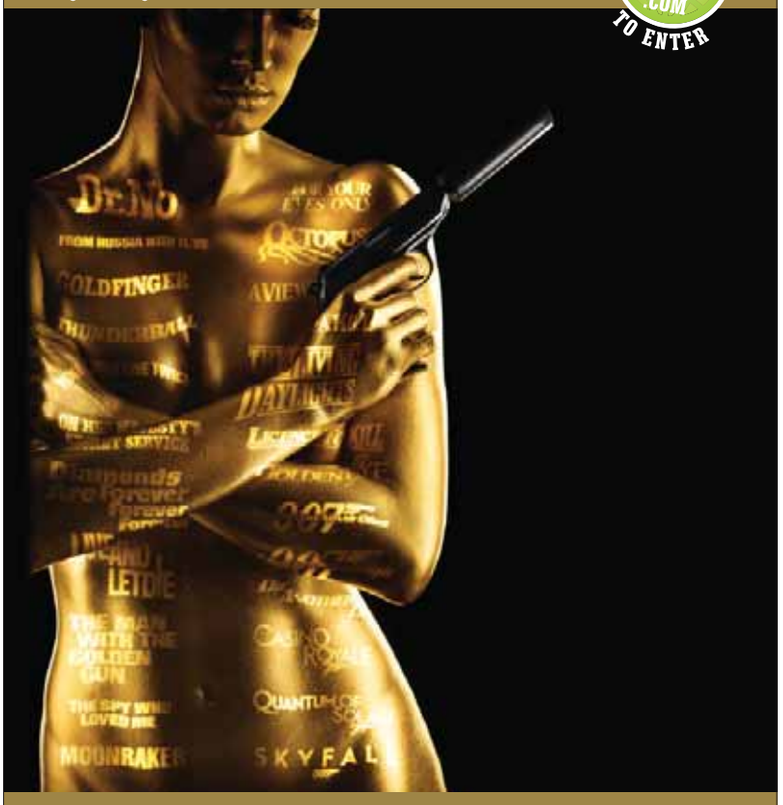

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Channing Tatum's wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum has a bun in the oven.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'Sexiest Man Alive' reproducing

Capping off an amazing year that's included several hit movies and a Sexiest Man Alive title, Channing Tatum is now gearing up for fatherhood. Tatum's wife, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, is expecting the couple's first child sometime next year, their rep confirmed to People magazine. And it may not be the last.

"I'm ready. I think she's ready," Tatum recently told the magazine. "The first number that pops into my head is three, but I just want one to be healthy and then we'll see where we go after that."

Mila Kunis was one of hacker Christopher Chaney's victims.

Celeb hacker gets 10 years

Christopher Chaney, the man responsible for hacking the email accounts of more than 50 celebrities and posting their intimate photos online, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to E! News.

Chaney was also ordered to pay restitution fees of $66,179 by the judge, who admonished Chaney for his "callous disregard to his victims" during the hearing. His famous victims included Scarlett Johansson, Miley Cyrus, Jessica Alba and Mila Kunis.

The Word

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Beckham?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Bend it like Burberry?

Maybe he's just not that good with a soccer ball?

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, David and Victoria Beckham's son Romeo Beckham is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign, joining a long list of models and stars who have fronted ads for the house, including Cara Delevingne, Edie Campbell and Eddie Redmayne. "We had such fun shooting the campaign and I think that comes through in the images, which really reflect the upbeat spirit of the collection," Burberry's creative director Christopher Bailey says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they wanted to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?

In other news:
A 2012 coming-out recap

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist.
How: In an email to blogger Andrew Sullivan.
What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four pre-seasons with three NFL teams.
How: In an interview with Outsports.com.
What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family."

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck.
How: Just by appearing on Honey Boo Boo.
What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."

E.T. star is adult enough to admit she still makes mistakes.

Drew still a kid at heart

Drew Barrymore has done a lot of growing up, but that doesn't mean she feels like an adult.

"The mistakes, the potholes, the journeys, the bad patterns — all of it is so much clearer to me now, but I still don't totally feel like a grown-up," the 37-year-old new mom tells Allure magazine. "Maybe I never will."

Zooey Deschanel and Death Cab for Cutie's Benjamin Gibbard are never, ever, getting back together.

Cutie divorce finalized

Zooey Deschanel's marriage to Death Cab for Cutie frontman Benjamin Gibbard is officially over, with the former couple formalizing their divorce in a Los Angeles court last week, just over a month after separating, according to E! News. And the New Girl star appears to already be moving on, having been spotted recently walking hand-in-hand with new screenwriter boyfriend Jamie Linden.

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STOP HAIR LOSS

for MEN and for WOMEN

#1 SELLING IN CANADA

Hair Grow Technology's Bio-Fen® product line is continually moving forward! We are introducing our two latest versions; **Bio-Fen® Plus for Men** and **Bio-Fen® Plus for Women**. These products have been assigned Natural Product Numbers (NPN's) by Health Canada.

We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT*(which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

Twice the Strength!
Twice the Power!

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men:

As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

- ***Relieve the urologic symptoms associated with mild to moderate benign prostatic hyperplasia - BPH*** *(e.g. weak urine flow, incomplete voiding, frequent daytime and night time urination).*
- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women

The women's formula is almost the same as the men's formula. The mechanisms and results for the women formula is the same. The only difference is it contains silicon and iron instead of saw palmetto. Silicon has been shown to contribute to hair shaft strength and thus healthy hair growth. It also contains iron which helps prevent iron deficiency. A number of studies have related sub-clinical iron deficiency in women to diffuse hair loss/alopecia.

The increased amount of SDG and other revisions to the regulations allow us to make some additional health claims for *Bio-Fen® Plus for Women.*

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women will also help to:

- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels/hyperlipidemia***
- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

How long must I use Bio-Fen® Plus?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

What is the quality of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

Hair Grow Technology (Bio-Fen® Plus) is a progressive company - we continually seek out the latest research on bioactive ingredients, and on regulatory updates in the natural health products industry.

See our website to locate your nearest store that carries *Bio-Fen® Plus.*

www.biofen.com

1-866-424-7745

Available at Health Food Stores, Supplement Stores & Independent Pharmacies

Save $5.00 off your purchase with this coupon!

Each coupon is valid for one bottle of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men or Bio-Fen® Plus for Women. Valid one coupon per bottle. Coupon is void when reproduced or altered in anyway. Coupon expires on December 31, 2012. Retailers must submit all coupons for reimbursement to Hair Grow Technology within 30 days after the expiration date. Redeemed coupons must be accompanied with a copy of the purchased receipt.

This holiday season, think South Pole instead of North

Icy wonderland. While Santa's homeland might be on our minds right now, Antarctica's unspoiled landscape beckons travellers

DOUG WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Who owns Antarctica? The penguins, of course — several million of them (cute little devils, too). At 1.4 times the size of Canada, the seventh continent to tick off your bucket list is rich with incredible wildlife, pristine vistas and amazing history. With the season stretching from the end of November to the beginning of March, and January temps hovering at zero around the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, this trip south could be your chance to be a real snowbird this winter.

The starting gate

The expedition begins with an overnight in Ushuaia, a small city of 65,000 at the bottom of Argentina that bills itself as the "city at the end of the world." Just a few kilometres from Tierra del Fuego National Park, it was originally founded as a prison colony, and the old prison has been converted into a museum complex, which includes a full wing on Antarctica.

The ship

Most of the cruise ships that serve Antarctica are a smaller variety; great for squeezing through ice-filled canals. Toronto-based Quark Expeditions has been ferrying people across the notorious Drake Passage for 20 years, with a comfortably high guest-to-crew ratio and an excellent track record. On-board experts share their knowledge of ornithology, marine biology, zoology and geology with insightful talks during downtimes on the voyage down and back, as well as throughout the trip. Photography courses help guests get that perfect shot, and a wellness program includes yoga classes and massage therapy — both great for relieving backs left sore from a day of hiking and Zodiac boat rides around all the icebergs.

The crowd

A truly international crowd makes this trek — from the fleece-clad adventurers to the retirees bored with the Caribbean to the young marrieds getting in some travel miles before they start a family.

"Antarctica captures people's imagination regardless of their age, and people come with different goals," says Quark expedition leader David Wood.

Visiting scientists gathering data could well accompany you on your excursions, and are eager to talk about their work. Whether guests are gung-ho adventure types or a "contemplative" group that takes things easier, there is pretty much something for everyone.

The excursions

After two days at sea, when you reach land-ho, out come the Zodiac pontoon boats. Twice daily spins around the various harbours and bays, plus landings on islands that dot the Antarctic Peninsula as well as the continent itself, make for a flurry of activity. Sea kayaking is a great way to interact with the scenery and connect with the water and the wildlife. Penguin colonies, secluded bays of berg-filled waters, lazy seals on thick ice floes, majestic birds, gorgeous glacial ice sculptures, rocky peaks — the photo ops are beyond stunning.

Hikes around the islands of Antarctica reveal breathtaking views. ALL PHOTOS: TIM STEWART

The eco-friendliness

All Antarctica tour operators uphold the same objectives to keep the region as pristine as possible, following directives outlined in The Antarctic Treaty, which was signed in 1959.

Among other things, this involves preventing the introduction of non-native species to the area, be it plants or disease.

Travellers step through a disinfecting boot bath getting on and off the ship. You leave zero evidence of ever having stepped on Antarctica, except for your footprint.

The penguins are the real stars of the cruise, entertaining travellers with their antics.

If you go...

- **Tours.** For 2013-2014, Quark Expeditions has a few new adventures, including a Greenland cruise and a Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica voyage that departs from Buenos Aires. It features the first-ever Polar Floating Documentary Film Festival, and was just voted one of Wanderlust Travel magazine's 50 Best Trips of 2013. Check it all out at quarkexpeditions.com.

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Stocking stuffers

Traveller on your list? Here are some items guaranteed to please

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

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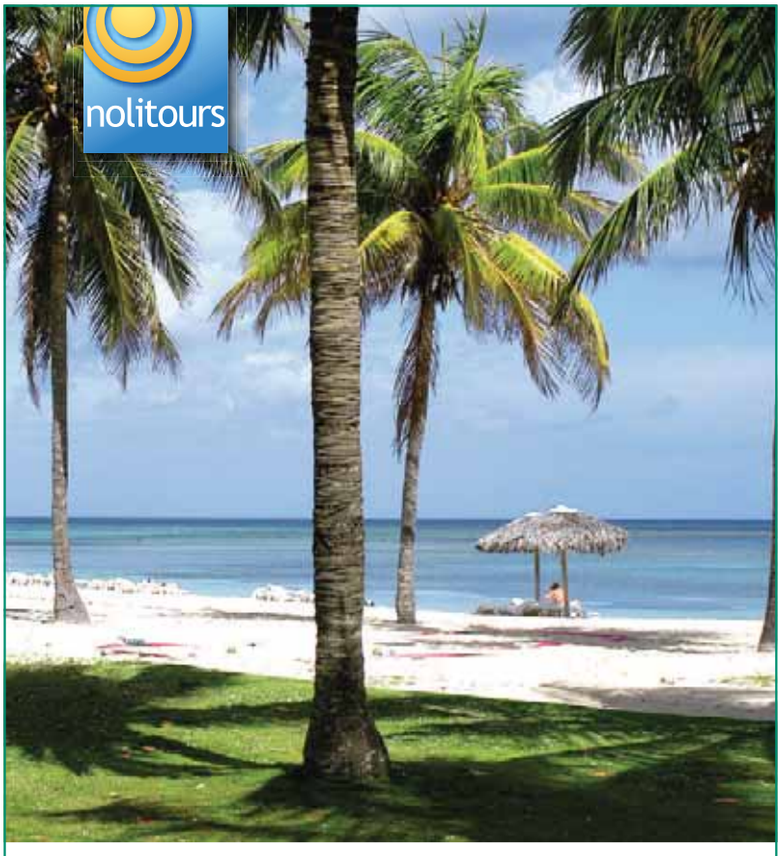
Baja Books' Pocketsize Phrasebooks come in numerous languages including Spanish, Italian and Japanese. Small, light and easy to use for any loved ones who like to make friends as they explore new countries. $5.95 each. speedylanguage.com.

Whether it's the jungle, beach or desert, the Canadian-made Cool Scarf will keep you cool for 48 hours. Just soak it in clean, cold water for 20 minutes. Polymer crystals hidden inside absorb the water and become a cooling gel. Available in numerous colours and designs for $18. heatcutters.com.

Spare Soles Portable Flats are for the ladies in your life who want a break from their heels, whether in an airport, on the plane or at the hotel. They are compact and foldable and fit in the smallest of purses or pockets. Prices start at $13 US, sparesoles.com.

Want to avoid dry-cleaning bills on the road? Travel Essentials' Laundr' Pac includes detergent, laundry line and sink stopper for those who travel light but want to keep it fresh. $11 at austinhouse.com

PRODUCTS CAN EITHER BE ORDERED ONLINE OR CHECK THE WEBSITE PROVIDED FOR A LOCAL RETAILER.



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Travellin' Canadian Darren Parkman tries life in the fast lane

Las Vegas. Forget gambling and partying, whizzing around a racetrack in a $300,000 car is one of Sin City's biggest thrills

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

As if endless bars, glitzy shows, and nerve-racking blackjack weren't enough, there's an even more exciting way to get the adrenaline pumping in Vegas.

How about putting pedal to metal behind the wheel of a $300,000 racing Ferrari?

If you've got the nerve, the skills and several hundred dollars, Dream Racing at Las Vegas Motorways is for you.

A little backstory: My first car was a beloved '73 Pinto, so I'm no Mario Andretti behind the wheel. Still, I couldn't resist the urge to at least pretend I was, and hopefully emerge in one piece.

Located less than a half hour from the strip, LV Motorways is a genuine race track, complete with grand stands and a challenging track. After a brief but intimidating car simulator session, I found myself suiting up and strapping into an honest to goodness real Ferrari F-450 GT race car.

Just the roar of the engine was enough to strike fear into my heart. Luckily, an experienced driver was right beside me in the passenger seat, shouting commands through my headset and telling me when to hit the gas. And hit the gas I did. Ever wonder what it feels like to be inside a launching rocket? I don't wonder anymore.

All the while, my driving instructor is yelling for me to gear up or gear down with the steering column paddle. Probably the single coolest moment was when I took my first corner at full throttle. Whereas most cars would probably roll multiple times at this point, this amazing Ferrari felt like it was glued to the track even on a sharp bend.

This experience is well worth the price of admission. And I don't miss that Pinto anymore.

Other Las Vegas adventures

- **Indoor skydiving.** Suit up and dive into a tube with a giant fan blasting you upwards. Simulates actual skydiving and free falling. The fan generates winds up to 193 kilometres per hour.
- **Freemont St. zipline.** Soar above the most historic street in Vegas. Flightlinez offers rides for only $20 nightly after 6 p.m.

Darren Parkman has a need for speed at the Las Vegas Motorways. CONTRIBUTED/DARREN PARKMAN

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Rio de Janeiro Air + 8 Nights $2114
Copacabana Rio Hotel
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UK Vacation

London Valentine's Day Air + 6 Nights $1233
Umi
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Roasting chestnuts on an open fire

Do people really roast chestnuts?

Yes, says Linda Grimo of Grimo Nut Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. But the easiest way to do them is on the barbecue, she says. Nuts have been part of the holiday tradition for centuries, with both religious and pagan origins cited by various sources. Although cooks tend to incorporate them in dishes throughout the year, they are a staple of holiday entertaining.

There are options aside from roasting

Sautéing peeled chestnuts in a frying pan is an alternative to barbecuing. If you boil them briefly first, the nuts will "pop right out" of the skin, says Grimo. She cooks them in butter for at least 10 minutes, adding sugar to caramelize them for a sweet treat or garlic or onions if she wants to add them to vegetable or meat dishes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Storage

Store-bought nuts in the shell or in jars can be stored at room temperature, but freshly harvested nuts have a high moisture content and need to dry out. Grimo advises people who pick black walnuts, for example, to hang them in a burlap sack in the furnace room for three weeks, preferably with a small fan near them to circulate air through the bag. Chestnuts are the exception and should always be stored in the refrigerator.

The weigh in

Nuts are very good for us, says dietitian Doug Cook, and since they all have different nutrients in varying degrees, eating a variety is best. Ounce for ounce, nuts contain between 150 and 200 calories. The number of servings per person should depend on age, activity level and body weight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DOUG COOK, DIETITIAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER OF HEALTHCASTLE.COM.**

Cocktails of the Week

Fig and Maple

Something about fig and maple syrup just goes together. And when you add a little liquor, you have a delicious and warming combination that is perfect for those nights when you're curled up in front of the fire.

- 2 fresh or dried fig
- 1 tbsp ginger marmalade
- 1 oz hot water
- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2 oz fresh lime juice
- 2 oz ginger beer
- 1 oz maple syrup

1. In a shaker, muddle fig with ginger marmalade and water. Add Bombay Sapphire, fresh lime juice, ginger beer and maple syrup. Add ice and double strain into glass.

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Student voice

To the educated, I say keep your ego in check

Susan Rann
Graduate
Business Administration
Nova Scotia Community College
TalentEgg.ca

What's my rant/beef/whatever you want to call it about you, we, us, the post-secondary post-student career-looking individual? We think too damn highly of ourselves.
Not enough words to get published? Well let me elaborate.

Remember the day that the college actually accepted your application? What happened to you in the less-than-a-year to three years since then that makes you believe you are fit for a CEO role? Seriously. We all feel it once in a while — just last week I applied to be the prime minister. I have yet to hear back.

At any rate, we get a little knowledge in us and we suddenly think we don't have to start at the bottom.

A magic formula?

"How about a little experiment? Let's apply for the gigs we know we are able to do and let the ones we want come to us when the time is right."

Susan Rann

How about a little experiment? Let's apply for the gigs we know we are able to do and let the ones we want come to us when the time is right. Believe me — if the organization that finds you is awesome enough, they will make room for someone who knows the value of service over the person with a bunch of letters after their name.

Based on your experience, what recommendation(s) do you have for employers, career centres or schools?
My recommendation to employers is to give every person who takes the time to apply to your organization a chance to speak to one person. That is all. A quick, five-minute chat with an employee of your company to find out if they are a good fit. Human nature will let each individual know within those five-minutes if a resumé should be handed in and an application process initiated.

What are you doing now?
I write and volunteer in my spare time.

Based on your experience, do you have any advice for your fellow students and recent grads?
I have plenty of experience and attitudes for many different situations and work experience to share with you.

In general, my advice is to keep your head high in whatever you are doing.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE.

Susan Rann. PROVIDED

Halfway in and having some doubts?

School switcharoo.
It's not uncommon for mixed feelings to make their way into the minds of learners

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

So your college or university major isn't what you thought it'd be. Maybe the career opportunities you thought you'd have haven't panned out. Or perhaps you've discovered a new interest.

Fall classes may be over, but there's still time to meet with an academic advisor and change your winter schedule to pursue a new major or specialization.

According to the University of Calgary, the majority of university students switch their majors at least once. Reasons why vary from not being hired to discovering new interests to just plain uncertainty.

Be cautious of stacking your schedule with similar classes. Try to study a variety of subjects to get a wider perspective and discover your other interests earlier. ISTOCK

What should you do if you're interested in something else?
It's easy to follow your friends, study what your parents tell you to or pursue a career based on how much it pays. But you have to deal with your career choices, Toronto-based community manager Stephanie Fusco says.

Fusco studied politics at Queen's University and hoped to go to law school since she was in high school. But in a fourth-year political communications seminar, she realized that she loved strategy, speech writing and communications more. She graduated from Queen's and later pursued her passion and earned a post-graduate certificate in public relations from Humber College.

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school," she says. "I'm sure I'm doing what I'm supposed to do and my career is on a path I'm very happy with."

Maybe there's an aspect of your major you love. It may take some reflection or experimentation to figure it out, but try to pursue a degree and a career in the aspect that interests you the most, Fusco adds.

What should you do if you're not sure?
If you're unsure about your interests or aspirations, choose an undecided major. According to the University of California, students who enter college with an undeclared major change their focus fewer times than students who declare their major. So when you do make a decision, you'll make it count.

Drawn to different choices

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school."

Stephanie Fusco
Toronto-based community manager

What should you do if you weren't recruited this fall?
Many large companies have already filled their entry level or leadership program positions by now. Don't panic if you haven't been hired. Take rejection as an opportunity to assess your interests, goals and options.

When an accounting firm didn't recruit Nick Guadagnolo last year, the then aspiring auditor and fourth-year accounting student at the Schulich School of Business enrolled in organizational behaviour and marketing classes in his final semester instead.

"An accounting specialization without a CA designation was not what I wanted," Guadagnolo says. "I excelled at, and quite frankly derived so much more pleasure from, the not-so-numerical aspects of the BBA degree."

He studied things like sports marketing, crisis management and operating a family business. He wrote the LSAT in June, applied to law school this fall, travelled frequently and continues to work part-time in HR. For Guadagnolo, there is credence to a plan of action that doesn't involve immediately jumping into the fray. It sounds scary now, but maybe the same applies to you too.

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ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

Moving to a new city for a job means leaving your old life behind and often throws you right into work, making it hard to achieve any semblance of a work-life balance.

When being the new kid in the office also coincides with being the new kid on the block, it is especially important that you don’t let your work life take over your entire life. It’s not good for your job and it’s not good for you.

This year I experienced my first summer in Toronto and also my first summer working in the city. After weeks of devoting myself to my job and nothing but my job, I realized that gaining some balance not only made me more productive but it generally made me happier.

Julie Chandler, an executive with Robert Half International, says that work-life balance is one of the most important facets to performing well at work. “When I have that work-life balance, I go in the next day with a smile on my face because I’m happy to be back,” she says.

According to a recent study by Regus PLC, more Canadian office workers feel that their work-life balance has improved. However, in my experience, new hires often let work take over as they try to prove themselves in their new office.

Attempting to balance a fast-paced Toronto job with life in the big city taught me a few things about dividing my time between work and play. Through trial and error, here are the lessons I learned:

It’s time you take a moment out of your busy day to listen to that inner voice. ISTOCK

Take breaks

Starting a new job on the right foot means working hard, but it doesn’t mean that you can never step away from your desk.

When I first started working in Toronto, I was glued to my chair for eight solid hours, the equivalent of flying from Toronto to London, England, every day without rest stops. After a few weeks of working on the permanent butt-imprint in my office chair, a co-worker approached me about having the same no-break problem. We decided to start eating lunch together, forcing each of us to step away from work for at least half an hour of banter over burgers.

The difference was astounding. I returned to work feeling refreshed and ready to get back to my job. Taking coffee breaks and time for lunch also helps the day go by faster.

Leave work at the office

In the age of social media and smart phones, work is no longer contained to the office. Assignments can roll in at any time, on any day with the click of a button.

However, it is important to make a distinction between work time and home time. Do you really need to be reading budget reports on Saturday morning or can it wait until Monday?

Job permitting, try to avoid checking your work emails during the weekends or evenings.

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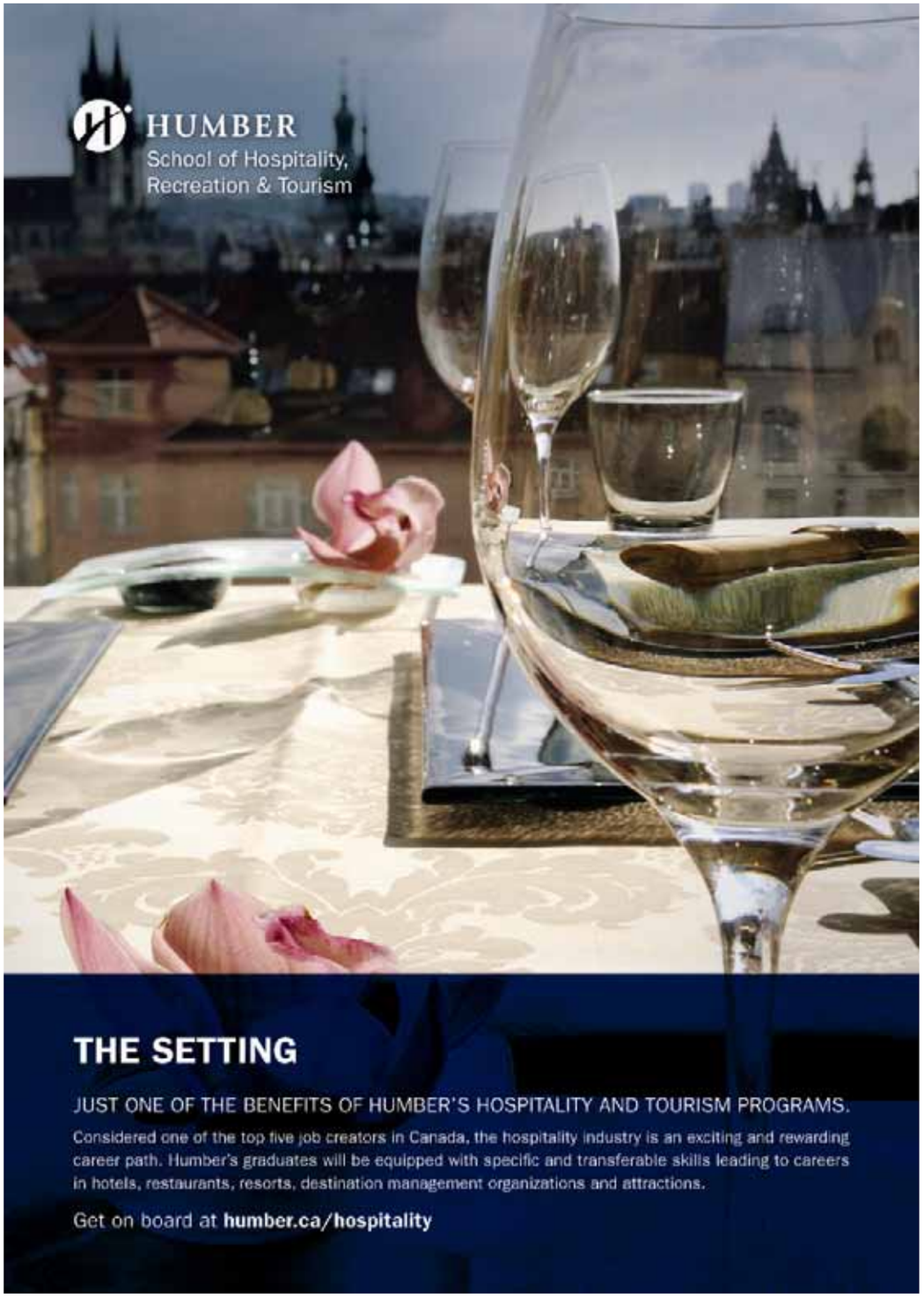
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MLS

TFC to kick off vs. West Coast rival

Toronto FC's elusive search for an MLS win will resume March 2 in Vancouver as the 2013 season kicks off.

By that stage it will be almost eight months since its last league victory — a 2-1 decision over the visiting Colorado Rapids on July 18. Toronto, which managed just five wins in 2012, finished the season on an 0-10-4 slide.

Vancouver ended its 2012 season on a loss — 2-1 to the eventual champion Los Angeles Galaxy — but still made history as the first Canadian side to make the playoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Prefontaine hopes to kick again after Argos ouster

Noel Prefontaine isn't ready to call it a career just yet.

The Toronto Argonauts released the veteran kicker/punter Tuesday, and Prefontaine said he wants to continue his CFL career. He has even hired an agent to beat the bushes for an opportunity with another team.

The move comes less than a month after Prefontaine, who turns 39 on Sunday, helped the Argos defeat the Calgary Stampeders 35-22 in the 100th Grey Cup game at Rogers Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Noel Prefontaine
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

New Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey began toying with the knuckleball in 2005 while with the Texas Rangers and initially struggled with it. But Dickey continued working on the pitch and has enjoyed solid success with it since joining the New York Mets in 2010. MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Refusing to buckle on value of knuckle

MLB. New Blue Jays pitcher R.A. Dickey looking to legitimize knuckleball

It's quirky, unpredictable and has been described in baseball circles as an oddity and "pitch of last resort."

But the Toronto Blue Jays are banking on R.A. Dickey's dancing knuckleball.

The Jays acquired the National League Cy Young Award winner in a seven-player deal with the Mets on Monday.

Dickey, 38, posted a 20-6 record and 2.73 earned-run average with New York in 2012, but his go-to pitch wasn't a blazing fastball, nasty slider or deep-bending curve. Often he got batters out with the knuckleball, a slow, unassuming pitch that flutters like a butterfly.

"This may be a pitch of last resort, which I think is accurate, but think about over history how many last resorts have ended up being successful," Dickey said during a conference call Tuesday. "A lot."

General manager Alex Anthopoulos signed Dickey to a two-year, $25-million US contract extension with a $12-million club option for 2016. Dickey is scheduled to earn $5.25 million in 2013.

"I think Alex should be commended on being able to see past those stereotypical analyzations a lot of guys give the pitch as a gimmick or something that isn't legitimate," Dickey said. "I think we can all admit the past year and the past three years in general have been legitimate."

More good news for Toronto is Dickey started six games against the American League over his three seasons in New York, posting a 4-0 record and 1.71 ERA.

A former first-round draft pick of the Rangers, Dickey will anchor a rotation in Toronto that includes Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle as well as returnees Ricky Romero and Brandon Morrow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

4

R.A. Dickey is the fourth pitcher to win the Cy Young only to be traded before the next season, joining David Cone, Pedro Martinez and Roger Clemens.

Dickey loved New York

R.A. Dickey picked up his phone Saturday, and Mets GM Sandy Alderson told him he had 72 hours to negotiate a contract with the Jays.

- "OK, here we go. I probably am never going to be a Met again," Dickey remembered thinking. "I think I had a wash of just numbness come over me."
- "I think it's important for me to grieve leaving New York," he said. "I had a lot of success there, and I think it's important for me to be sad about that for a moment before I move on to the next feeling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

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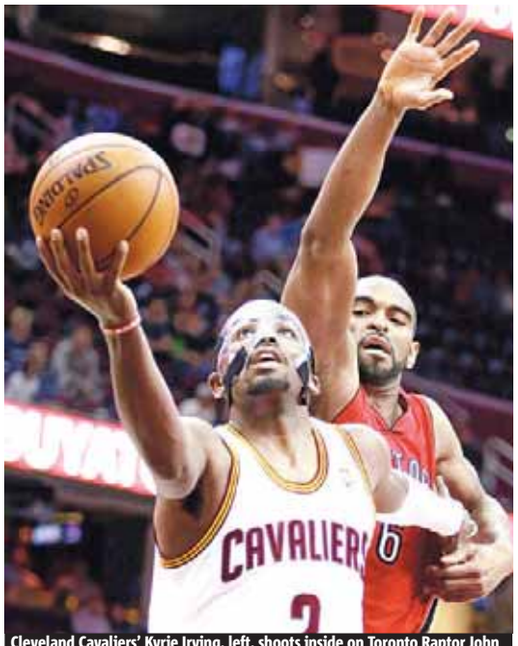
Raps rolling: Toronto snaps road losing streak vs. Cavs



Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving, left, shoots inside on Toronto Raptor John Lucas on Tuesday in Cleveland. Irving scored 23 points in the Cavaliers' 113-99 loss to Toronto. MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors' first win as visitors since Nov. 13 is also their third victory on the trot

Tuesday's game

113	99
Raptors	Cavaliers

Jose Calderon scored a season-high 23 points, and the Toronto Raptors won on the road for the second time this season by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 113-99 on Tuesday night.

The Raptors snapped an 11-game skid on the road, winning away from home for the first time since Nov. 13 when they beat Indiana. Toronto, which is 2-14 on the road, has also won three in a row for the first time this season.

Alan Anderson hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points. Amir Johnson scored 17 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16.

Kyrie Irving, coming off a career-high 41 points Saturday, scored 23 points for Cleveland. The reigning rookie of the year, currently playing with a broken bone in his jaw, is wearing a protective mask.

Cavaliers centre Anderson Varejao, the league's leading rebounder, left the game briefly after injuring his right knee in the first quarter. Playing with a sleeve on his knee, Varejao had 22 points and 10 rebounds.

The Raptors have won six of their last eight games against the Cavaliers overall, including each of their last four trips to Cleveland.

Toronto continues to play without centre Andrea Bargnani and guard Kyle Lowry, their second- and third-leading scorers. Both have missed the last four games. Bargnani has an injured right elbow while Lowry has a torn right tricep. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Crosby sneaks in as goalie at ball hockey game

Sid the Kid won't let the NHL lockout keep him on the bench, even if it means returning to the game in an unlikely fashion.

The Penguins superstar dropped in on some ball hockey last week, donning the goalie pads and posting a shutout against his aptly named opponents, Flyers Suck.

"It was pretty unbelievable," said Joseph Heaney, who was referee at the DekStar Dekhockey Center in Ohio Township, northwest of Pittsburgh.

"To have the greatest hockey player in the world standing next to you, it's kind of surreal that he's standing right there, playing."

The 24-year-old said Crosby suited up in the parking lot before the Dec. 14 game. Nobody noticed they were in the presence of celebrity until the dying minutes of the second period, when Heaney ran down the outdoor rink to make an icing call, he said.

"I got the ball from (Crosby), and I was like, 'Oh thanks, man. I don't see you playing goalie for this team usually.' And I looked at his mask, and I was like, 'Holy ...'

"He just started laughing."

"I waited until after the game to tell everybody," added Heaney. "He just wanted to be normal for a change and play with his friends."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Soccer

Messi extends his stay in Barcelona

Lionel Messi agreed on a new contract with Barcelona on Tuesday through 2018.

Messi, the three-time world player of the year, has 90 goals in 2012, surpassing Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old milestone of 85 in a calendar year.

Xavi Hernandez and Carles Puyol also agreed to new deals with the Spanish giant.

In a statement released by the club, Messi, whose contract was due to expire on June 30, 2016, extended his commitment to the club to June 30, 2018.

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	18	6	.750	—
Miami	15	6	.714	11/2
Atlanta	15	7	.682	2
Chicago	13	10	.565	41/2
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	5
Indiana	13	11	.542	5
Brooklyn	13	11	.542	5
Boston	12	11	.522	51/2
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	6
Orlando	11	13	.458	7
Charlotte	7	16	.304	101/2
Toronto	7	19	.269	12
Detroit	7	20	.259	121/2
Cleveland	5	21	.192	14
Washington	3	19	.136	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	18	6	.750	2
San Antonio	19	7	.731	2
Memphis	16	6	.727	3
Golden State	16	8	.667	4
Minnesota	12	10	.545	7
Utah	14	12	.538	7
Denver	13	12	.520	71/2
Houston	12	12	.500	8
Portland	11	12	.478	81/2
Dallas	11	13	.458	9
L.A. Lakers	11	14	.440	91/2
Phoenix	10	15	.400	101/2
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
New Orleans	5	18	.217	141/2

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results

Toronto 113 Cleveland 99
Atlanta 100 Washington 95 OT
Utah 92 Brooklyn 90
Minnesota at Miami
Boston at Chicago
Indiana at Milwaukee
Philadelphia at Dallas
San Antonio at Denver
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers
New Orleans at Golden State

Monday's results

Orlando 102 Minnesota 93
Houston 109 New York 96
L.A. Clippers 88 Detroit 76
Memphis 80 Chicago 71
Oklahoma City 107 San Antonio 93
Phoenix 101 Sacramento 90

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Utah at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at New York, 7 p.m.
Washington at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Houston, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's games

Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10 p.m.

RAPTORS 113, CAVALIERS 99

TORONTO (113)

Calderon 10-15 0-0 23, Anderson 6-12 1-2 18, Johnson 6-7 5-5 17, DeRozan 4-9 8-8 16, Lucas 4-7 1-1 11, Kleiza 2-6 6-7 10, Valanciunas 3-6 2-4 8, Davis 2-7 0-0 4, Pietrus 1-4 0-0 3, Ross 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 39-75 23-27 113.

CLEVELAND (99)

Irving 9-16 3-5 23, Varejao 5-12 12-16 22, Gee 6-8 2-3 15, Miles 4-7 3-3 13, Thompson 5-8 0-1 10, Waiters 4-13 0-2 8, Gibson 2-3 0-0 6, Zeller 1-2 0-0 2, Walton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-70 20-30 99.

Toronto	22	27	29	35 —113
Cleveland	29	24	23	23 — 99

3-Point Goals—Toronto 12-24 (Anderson 5-7, Calderon 3-6, Lucas 2-3, Pietrus 1-3, Kleiza 0-3, Ross 1-1, DeRozan 0-1). Cleveland 7-16 (Irving 2-5, Miles 2-4, Gibson 2-3, Waiters 0-2, Gee 1-1, Walton 0-1). **Rebounds**—Toronto 36 (Valanciunas 7, Johnson 6, Anderson 6, DeRozan 5, Calderon 5, Davis 4, Kleiza 1, Lucas 1, Ross 1). Cleveland 33 (Varejao 10, Thompson 9, Gee 4, Miles 4, Irving 3, Zeller 2, Gibson 1). **Assists**—Toronto 25 (Calderon 6). Cleveland 19 (Irving 7). **Total Fouls**—Toronto 24, Cleveland 26.

A—13,233. T—2:18

AHL

Tuesday's result

Hamilton at Peoria

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Abbotsford at Chicago, 12 p.m.
St. John's at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Portland, 7 p.m.
Norfolk at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Albany at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Texas, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday's games

Houston at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Friday's games

Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Abbotsford at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Worcester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
St. John's at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Albany at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Texas at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 22

St. John's at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Providence at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Hershey, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
Portland at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Albany at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
Houston at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Texas at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Abbotsford at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Koji Uehara on a one-year contract.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Named Julio Vinas manager and Britt Burns pitching coach of Birmingham (SL); Ryan Newman manager of Winston-Salem (Carolina); Tommy Thompson manager of Kannapolis (SAL); Pete Rose Jr. manager of Great Falls (Pioneer); Bobby Magallanes manager of Bristol (Appalachian); Doug Sisson minor league outfield/baserunning instructor; and Vance Law special assistant to player development.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with 3B Mark Reynolds on a one-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Designated RHP Mickey Storey for assignment.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with 2B Luis Rodriguez on a minor league contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Pelfrey on a one-year contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Traded OF Collin Cowgill to the N.Y. Mets for INF Jefry Marte. Agreed to terms with SS Hiroyuki Nakajima on a two-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ramon Ortiz and OF Ryan Langerhans on minor league contracts and RHP Roberto Hernandez on a one-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Named Pat Listach minor league infield coordinator; Todd Takayoshi assistant minor league hitting coordinator; Rick Knapp minor league pitching coordinator; John Shoemaker Camelback Ranch-Glendale coordinator of instruction; Franklin Stubbs hitting coach of Albuquerque (PCL); Jody Reed manager, Hector Berrios pitching coach and Orv Franchuk hitting coach of Chattanooga (SL); Carlos Subero manager and Johnny Washington hitting coach of Rancho Cucamonga (Cal); Razor Shines manager, Bill Simas pitching coach and Mike Eylward hitting coach of Great Lakes (MWL); Esteban Lopez hitting coach of Ogden (Pioneer); and P.J. Forbes manager of the Arizona League Dodgers.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Rick Tomlin minor league pitching coordinator; Bob Skube coach and Aaron Hoback trainer for Nashville (PCL); Steve Patera trainer of Huntsville (SL); Tony Diggs manager and Dwayne Hosey coach of Helena (Pioneer); Nestor Corredor manager and Greg Barajas trainer of the Arizona League Brewers.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with LHP John Lannan on a one-year contract.

NBA

HOUSTON ROCKETS — Recalled F/C Donatas Motiejunas from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).

NFL

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed OL Kraig Urbik to a contract extension. Placed LB Arthur Moats on injured reserve and WR Donald Jones on the reserve/non-football illness list. Signed WR Chris Hogan and LB Greg Lloyd from the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed RB Michael Bush on injured reserve. Signed RB Kahlil Bell.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named Alec Scheiner president. Placed LB James-Michael Johnson and DB T.J. Ward on injured reserve. Signed DB Prince Miller and LB Adrian Moten. Signed DL Hall Davis from the practice squad.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed DE Andre Branch and RB Jordan Todman on injured reserve. Released WR Quan Cosby and FB Will Ta'ufo'ou. Signed WR Mike Brown, LB Brandon Marshall and TE Isaiah Stanback from the practice squad and OL Tommie Draheim and WR Brittan Golden to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Re-signed OL Selvish Capers. Waived CB Terrence Frederick.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released TE Evan Moore. Signed TE Sean McGrath from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS — Released PK/P Noel Prefontaine.

NHL

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Reassigned F Stanislav Galiev and D Brett Flemming from Reading (ECHL) to Hershey (AHL).
American Hockey League
AHL — Suspended Lake Erie LW Patrick Bordeleau three games.
CONNECTICUT WHALE — Called up D Steven Delisle from Greenville (ECHL).
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Recalled D Patrick Cullity from Idaho (ECHL).

NLL

WASHINGTON STEALTH — Traded G Kevin Croswell to Philadelphia for a 2013 third-round draft pick. Released F Jeff Zywicki, F Martin Cummings, G Chris Seidel, F Peter Jacobs, F Jerome Thompson, F Mark Negrin, T T.J. Cowx, T Ryan Johnson and D Ben McCullough.

MLS

COLUMBUS CREW — Re-signed M Danny O'Rourke to a one-year contract.
D.C. UNITED — Released M Stephen King and D Michael Chabala.
FC DALLAS — Signed F Wesley "Pipico" Silva.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	4	0	.714	506	315
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	255	320
Miami	6	8	0	.429	264	279
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	306	402

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	12	2	0	.857	394	280
Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	309	358
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	285	396
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	219	383

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	348	307
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	355	293
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	302	291
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	280	310

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	409	274
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	299	312
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	263	402
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	195	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	8	6	0	.571	381	350
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	327	338
N.Y. Giants	8	6	0	.571	373	304
Philadelphia	4	10	0	.286	253	375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	371	259
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	389	379
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	354	349
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	296	319

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	344	292
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	319	308
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	321	240
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	330	380

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Francisco	10	3	1	.750	357	218
Seattle	9	5	0	.643	350	219
St. Louis	6	7	1	.464	258	315
Arizona	5	9	0	.357	224	302

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 15

Monday's result

Tennessee 14 N.Y. Jets 10

Sunday's results

Washington 38 Cleveland 21
Miami 24 Jacksonville 3
Denver 34 Baltimore 17
Atlanta 34 N.Y. Giants 0
Minnesota 36 St. Louis 22
Houston 29 Indianapolis 17
Green Bay 21 Chicago 13
New Orleans 41 Tampa Bay 0
Seattle 50 Buffalo 17
Carolina 31 San Diego 7
Arizona 38 Detroit 10
Dallas 27 Pittsburgh 24
Oakland 15 Kansas City 0
San Francisco 41 New England 34

WEEK 16

Saturday's game — All Times Eastern

Atlanta at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's games

Minnesota at Houston, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Carolina, 1 p.m.
San Diego at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New England at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Dallas, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.

LATE MONDAY

TITANS 14, JETS 10

N.Y. Jets	3	0	7	0—10
Tennessee	0	7	7	0—14

First Quarter

NYJ—FG Folk 22, 4:17.

Second Quarter

Ten—C.Johnson 94 run (Bironas kick), 8:53.

Third Quarter

NYJ—Cumberland 17 pass from Sanchez (Folk kick), 3:19.
Ten—Locker 13 run (Bironas kick), :20.

Fourth Quarter

A—69,143.

TEAM STATISTICS

	NYJ	Ten
First downs	20	12
Total Net Yards	253	294
Rushes-yards	30-146	30-167
Passing	107	127
Punt Returns	1-7	2-3
Kickoff Returns	2-52	3-75
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	4-55
Comp-Att-Int	13-29-4	13-22-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-24	4-22
Punts	6-42.3	10-39.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-23	14-111
Time of Possession	30:16	29:44

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—N.Y. Jets, Greene 13-68, McKnight 4-29, Powell 6-28, Tebow 3-15, Sanchez 4-6. Tennessee, C.Johnson 21-122, Locker 7-43, Q.Johnson 2-2.
PASSING—N.Y. Jets, Sanchez 13-28-4-131, Tebow 0-1-0-0. Tennessee, Locker 13-22-0-149.
RECEIVING—N.Y. Jets, Cumberland 4-53, Edwards 3-47, Powell 2-15, Greene 2-1, Kerley 1-11, Reuland 1-4. Tennessee, Washington 4-62, Wright 3-31, Preston 2-31, Stevens 2-16, Britt 1-7, Q.Johnson 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Tennessee, Bironas 46 (BK).

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Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. **Lease a new 2013 [F-150 XLT Super Cab 4x4] and get [3.99%] APR for [36] months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Example: [$27,749] (Cash Purchase Price) with [$3,999] down payment or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is [$388] total lease obligation is [$17,967] optional buyout is [$16,434] cost of leasing is [$2,632] or [3.99%] APR. Offer includes $7,000 in manufacturer rebates. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing price after any manufacturer rebate is deducted. Additional payments required for security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. 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Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lb GVWR vs. 2012/2013 comparable competitor engines. ***When properly equipped. Max. towing of 11,300 lb with 3.5L EcoBoost 4x2 and 4x4 and 6.2L 2-valve V8 4x2 engines. Max. payload of 3,120 lb with 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 engine. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lb GVWR vs. 2012/2013 competitors.

Civic hits refresh button

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Features

The new Honda Civic's feature list is long, so here's some highlights: Bluetooth for audio and device hookup, heated front seats, read out and respond for text messages and navigation upgraded with voice recognition, plus a "three-view" rear camera. In fact, a rear-view camera is now standard on EX models.

New stylish features

2013 Honda Civic fast facts

- **Sales.** Canada's top selling car line
- **Engine.** 140 hp, 1.8 litre four-cylinder. Si Coupes and Sedans upgraded to 201 hp.
- **Location.** Most models built in Alliston, Ont.
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $15,400

Style changes

The new model flaunts a degree of exterior style and interior finesse not quite evident on the 2012 Civic. In a mid-cycle refresh like this one, about all you're able to change on the outside are front and rear fascia, hood and trunk panels and the wheels. Honda has done that and all to great effect.

Design

The look is wider and lower — slightly more sporty and premium. It now sports exterior bits you've been seeing on higher-end models, like complex headlights, black mesh grille with chrome accents, integrated fog lights (on higher trim lines) and larger, more horizontal taillights that flow into the sides of the car.

Review. New model has learned from mistakes of 2012 Civic

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

This newly minted 2013 Honda Civic sedan is one unusual automobile. Not weird like it runs on goat cheese, or some other dairy product.

Unusual in that the refresh bestowed upon it for 2013 comes only one model year after it was completely reborn. About 18 months ago, that all-new and ninth-generation 2012 Honda Civic came out to mixed reviews — not so bad that it had any problem at all retaining its mantel as Canada's top-selling passenger car.

But Honda must have been clearly spooked about its initial reception and the subsequent and serious competitive moves made by its competitors in this all-important compact car segment — Canada's largest. Toyota Corolla and Mazda3 have always battled Civic hard, but now there's a whole new and energetic crowd banging on the door (Chevrolet Cruise, Ford Focus, Hyundai Elantra, Dodge Dart, etc.)

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone," says Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada. "We're now appealing to a significant number of customers who are downsizing from intermediate or larger vehicles."

On top of everything else it offers, it's quieter on the road thanks to new acoustic measures and the new suspension bits, which also reduce NVH. Good on Honda to make this move, and good on Civic. Your place on top of the Canadian sales charts will surely continue.

Quoted

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone."

Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada

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Just another toy among thousands? Some car buffs beg to differ. HANDOUT

Hoping for a gift with wheels under the tree

The golden olden days. Hobby-grade slot cars continue their cult status with children and adults alike

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Christmas morning is always fun. But it can never be as fun as it was on those magical Christmas mornings, when you were in your prime toy-yearning years.

First you don't get the Santa thing. Then, Santa and Christmas morning are everything. Then you gradually get jaded by the whole thing and start getting up later and later on Christmas morning. The window is actually quite small for really getting into it, but when you're into it, you're into it hard.

And it was in that glorious window that Santa once dropped off for me the actual Eldon slot car racing set I feverishly desired.

Net result: best Christmas present ever.

I still have the two slot cars that came with the set — an original Ford Mustang Fastback and a Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Coupe.

Back then (the mid-to-late 1960s), slot car racing sets were one of the prime Christmas toys for boys.

"You'd go to an Eaton's store back then, and there would be four or five tracks set up for kids to play and try," remembers Ernie Mossetti, who has been a slot car retailer since 1988, and a slot car aficionado virtually all his life. "I was born in 1956, and got my first slot car in 1964."

Vroom

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... or say they are buying a set for their kids."

Ernie Mossetti, slot car retailer and aficionado
On the popularity of the classic toy

The slot car's reign on top of the toy kingdom didn't last long. Mossetti says things were pretty much over by the late '60s.

Slot car sets are now just another toy among thousands. But "hobby grade" slot cars continue their cult status with adult aficionados, and some young folks as well.

Mossetti currently operates two slot car related concerns — raceworldcanada.com and mr.slotcar.ca — the former's an online store and the latter a line of professional grade slot cars designed by Mossetti (he's an industrial designer by trade). He notes that sets from Germany's Carrera and Britain's Scalextric continue to dominate the current market.

Mossetti says kids don't get exposed to the slot car world like they used to — there is little advertising or promotion. And these days, you have to go to a hobby store or an online store to get your actual slot car stuff.

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids … Or say they are buying the set for their kids."

Ouch, I resemble that last remark.

When our son, Jared, was four, he got from Santa a starter Scalextric set, with an Indy 500 theme. In retrospect, he was too young for it. Whenever he and his buddies played with it, they would simply hold the controller throttle on full blast, all the time. The beautifully detailed Indy racers were flying and crashing all over the living room. As designated first responder, I was very busy retrieving the cars and setting them back gently on the track, only to see them fly off of the track on the next lap.

But I didn't mind. They moved onto other activities eventually. Then I would have the track all to myself.

Slot car sets are still a sought-after gift, even in our high-tech age. ISTOCK

Carol singer John Lamanna reacts to an advertisement in his program announcing the 2013 Jetta for only $168 a month.
"I haven't hit a note that high since I was 14," **he later commented.**

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For speed freaks: The Mercedes Benz 2014 SLS AMG Black Series prototype can take you to 100 k/h from rest in 3.5 seconds. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

More than 50 sexy new models make their L.A. debut

Autoknow. It's the perfect town for an auto show that's about speed, beauty and going green

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

Ecology, speed, style and fantasy. They're just a few trademarks that help define the pomp of the Los Angeles Auto Show every year when this important event kicks-off the North American auto show season.

For 10 days each fall — Nov. 30 to Dec. 9 this year — the L.A. Convention Center becomes center stage for a broad spectrum of model debuts and a lineup of vehicles designed to impress a diverse California consumer base from wealthy movie stars to eco warriors. In 2011, more than 920,000 enthusiast and potential buyers attended the L.A. show, leaving it second only to the Detroit Auto Show in importance to the North American auto industry.

The 2012 L.A. show didn't necessarily feature the pizzazz from recent years. Vehicle improvements seemed to outweigh any groundbreaking innovations. But a clear manufacturer focus during a critical time for the industry raised the stakes at a show that always provides a sneak peak into consumer interest and sales projections.

Even with sagging economies crippling new-car sales in Europe and China, automakers from around the world debuted more than 50 new models in L.A., all trying to capitalize on a growing consumer confidence and improving economy here in North America.

Rawrrr: The 2014 Jaguar XFR-S.

According to a story in the Orange County Register daily newspaper, California accounts for more than 10 per cent of the 14 million vehicles sold each year in the United States. And with a demographic built on green — of both the income and the eco variety — the L.A. Auto Show is the perfect platform for automakers to allure potential buyers.

What's going on out there?

Many of the models may have changed, but the West Coast message remains the same: In terms of luxury, technology, styling and efficiency, more is never too much. Sports cars are faster, fuel efficiency is better, battery range is longer, emissions are lower, technology is easier and all of these advancements were featured on stages throughout the 2012 show.

From the sexy look of the 2014 Jaguar XFR-S to the intriguing 2014 Mazda6 clean-burning diesel — the first non-German powered diesel sedan to hit U.S. soil in 30 years — the L.A. menu lived up to its billing as both diverse and eclectic, featuring more than 1,000 of the latest vehicles.

Luxury is more of a necessity than a frill in and around Hollywood. And with growing demand in the upscale-sedan class, the gas-sipping 2013 Audi A8 diesel and its 36 m.p.g. along with the tech-heavy 2014 Honda Acura RLX, were two headliners looking for consumer love during the L.A. show.

For speed freaks, Mercedes Benz brought its 2014 SLS AMG Black Series prototype, where 622 horsepower takes you to 100 k/h from rest in 3.5 seconds. Down the hall, Porsche grabbed some attention with its new 2014 Cayman model, a leaner yet meaner version that rockets to 100 km/h in 4.4 seconds.

What a babe: The BMW i8 Spyder plug-in gets the Wheelbase vote for Concept Car of the Year.

How does the future look?

Air quality — or lack thereof — and a more eco-conscious lifestyle on the left coast made the debuts of several gas-electric hybrids and plug-in vehicles an important battleground for automakers.

- **Green hot.** Dozens of the hottest green rides — from frugal to fast — were on stage, all trying to attract buyers from a U.S. state that really and truly drives the North American gas-electric hybrid and all-electric markets.
- **Conservative.** For those with more conservative tastes, or budgets, Ford debuted its 2013 C-Max Energi plug-in electric. This compact utility vehicle takes the usual hybrid a little further by increasing the electric-only range to a Ford-claimed 33 kilometres. Once the batteries are depleted to the point where they cannot run the car by themselves, the C-Max Energi reverts to standard hybrid operation.

The 2013 Ford C-Max.

- **Fusion fun.** Ford enjoyed a strong presence at the L.A. show, taking home awards when Green Car Journal named the 2013 Ford Fusion sedan the green car of the year. It beat out the 2013 Dodge Dart Aero, 2013 Ford C-Max, 2013 Mazda CX-5 and even the popular 2013 Toyota Prius C for top honours.
- **Sultry.** The eye-catching BMW i8 Spyder plug-in — our choice for concept car of the year — offers a glimpse into just how hot the colour green can really be, and to where engine technology is heading. This sultry, two-seat, gas-electric combo jumps from standstill to 100 k/h in five seconds and can go 100 kilometres on just 3.3 litres of fuel. If plans hold together, BMW hopes to release the Spyder sometime in 2014. We say "hold together" because this particular slice of the market is thin, at best, and in a constant state of flux, making it possible to build the wrong vehicle. And that would be a disaster.

TODD BURLAGE IS A WRITER WITH WHEELBASE MEDIA. YOU CAN MESSAGE HIM USING THE CONTACT FORM AT WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM. WHEELBASE MEDIA IS A WORLDWIDE PROVIDER OF AUTOMOTIVE NEWS AND FEATURES STORIES.

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2012 Chevrolet Cruze LS+ R7B and 2013 Chevrolet (Equinox LS FWD G-BBQG/Silverado 1500 LS Ext. Cab 4WD G-BBQN). ◆$2,000/$500/$6,000/$11,500 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2012 Chevrolet Cruze/2013 Chevrolet Equinox/2013 Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab/2012 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. */◆Freight & PDI ($1,495/$1,495/$1,500/$1,495/$1,500), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2012/2013 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ***Factory order or dealer trade may be required. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ◆Comparison based on 2012 Wards segmentation: Middle/Cross Utility Vehicle and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ††2013 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $37,649. 2013 Silverado 1500 LT Ext. Cab with PDT & S80, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $45,844. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **Offer available to retail customers in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Territories between December 17, 2012 and December 30, 2012. Applies to new 2012 Chevrolet Sonic and Cruze and 2013 GM vehicles excluding 2013 Chevrolet Camaro, Corvette, Volt, Spark, Orlando, Express, Traverse, and Trax, GMC Savana and Acadia, Buick Enclave and Encore, and Cadillac ATS and XTS at participating dealers in Canada. Employee price includes freight and PDI but excludes license, insurance, registration, fees associated with filing at movable property registry/PPSA fees, duties, marketing fees and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Limited quantities of 2012 models available. Dealer order or trade may be required. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. See dealer for details. †To qualify for GMCL's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must: (1) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured in your name for the last 3 months (2) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured under a small business name for the last 3 months. GMCL will provide eligible consumers with a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) to be used towards the purchase/finance/lease of a new eligible 2012 or 2013 MY Chevrolet Colorado, GMC Canyon, Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra, or Chevrolet Avalanche delivered between October 2, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Incentive ranges from $1500 to $3,000, depending on model purchased. Incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. By participating in the Cash For Clunkers program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your vehicle. See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate program in whole or in part at any time without notice.

Parts Department

Whether it's a Christmas gift, a novelty birthday gift or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Lighten your load

Fumbling around in the dark while trying to find/remove the contents of your pickup's load bed is a thing of the past if you have installed an Automatic Cargo Light from 4zproducts. It automatically switches on when the tailgate is lowered. The least expensive version uses a single incandescent light, but for extra-bright illumination you can purchase either a single or dual light emitting diode (LED) four-foot-long strips that extend along the length of the box and can be attached without tools. Prices range from $30 US to $100 through shop.4zproducts.com.

This tops them all

Toting extra gear on top of your vehicle can be relatively easy and inexpensive with the Car Top Duffle Bag from Rightline Gear. This 91–by 40–by 32–centimetre waterproof unit can be strapped to the roof without needing to be secured to a rack, although that's likely not recommended for really heavy loads. The duffle bag also features a urethane coating that, claims Rightline, makes it 100 per cent waterproof. Along with all the necessary attachments for securing the bag to the doorframe, the Duffle Bag comes with adjustable over–the–shoulder carrying straps. The Car Top Duffle Bag has a suggested list price of $70 US. For full info and a complete rundown of retailers, go to rightlinegear.com.

Take charge

When storing your vehicle's battery for a lengthy period, it would be helpful to know if and when it might require recharging. OptiMate's Charge Now Warning Flasher attaches to your battery and will alert you should its power level drop below 50 per cent. At that point, you can recharge the battery by connecting the Charge Now Flasher through the supplied connector to any other vehicle's 12–volt receptacle to bring the battery up to full charge. The Charge Now Flasher is available for sealed automotive batteries or for marine–type wet–cell batteries and sells for $20 US from smartchargers.com.

You gotta have pull

If you or someone you know just has to have the latest and greatest tools in his or her shop, the Easypuller from Las Vegas Tools should definitely be on the shopping list. This award–winning product is designed to remove virtually any stubborn fastener. That includes rusted and seized–up bolts screws, nails, cotter pins, clips, seals and so on. It will even work as a dent remover. The secret is the patentpending Easypuller's special locking pliers that clamp onto the fastener in question. They work in tandem with a sliding one–kilogram hammer that creates a powerful pulling force. The Easypuller sells for $40 US from lasvegastool.com.

ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

Like a tree? Ford attempting to grow a car from the roots up

Driving Force. Automakers are experimenting with bio-materials for car parts and the green trend is picking up speed

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Along with food, many farmers are growing car parts these days.

Not directly, of course, but several automakers are experimenting with plant materials, including Ford, which operates a Bio-Materials Lab at its Research and Advanced Engineering Center in Dearborn, Mich.

"We have been working for the last 12 years on replacing petroleum products with bio-materials," says Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastics research. "People originally laughed at us until oil hit $100 a barrel, since there are 300 pounds (136 kg) of plastic in each vehicle."

Quoted

"We're now working on recycled soy foam and we're having some success with that."

Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastic research at Ford.
On the new products they've been experimenting with.

The earliest work was on foam made with soybean oil. The first examples were too brittle, but researchers finally came up with a viable product made with 40 per cent plant oil. It was initially used for seats in the 2007 Mustang, and is now found in every vehicle made in North America. "It saves five million pounds of oil every year," Mielewski says. "We're now working on recycled soy foam, and we're having some success with that."

Currently, the lab is experimenting with such things as rice hulls, coconut shells, and other agricultural waste. But it isn't enough just to add new materials to plastic, and researchers have to look at a wide range of issues, including how the composite handles extreme heat or cold, how strong it is, and if it can be produced on a large scale. The team even has to consider such things as whether people with plant allergies have any reaction to the finished plastic.

The seasonal nature of agriculture must also be considered, and there has to be a steady supply of the bio-material. Some crops also have to be rejected because industrial use would infringe on food production.

In addition to plant products, the lab also looks at new uses for recycled materials. It has had success with shredded soft drink bottles, which are turned into carpets and with denim waste from jean production, which is made into carpet backing and insulation. The researchers are even considering paper money, which the U.S. Mint shreds and sends to landfills when it gets too worn, as an ingredient in composite plastic.

Of note

- **The old days.** Henry Ford experimented with soybean plastic in the 1930s, but it was prohibitively more expensive than plastic made from oil, which was cheap at the time.
- **Bed down.** Ford works with non-competitive industries, such as mattress manufacturers, to help them use more soybean foam.
- **Green car.** All of the fabric in the Ford Focus Electric is made from recycled materials.

Ford is one of several car companies experimenting with bio-materials. HANDOUT

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TOYOTA 2012 YEAR END COUNTDOWN

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Venza V6 AWD Touring Package model shown. All-in price $40,070**

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Corolla S with Moonroof model shown. All-in price $23,860**

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TOYOTA

Limited time finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. ^No payments for 120 days offer, applies to purchase finance offers on all new and unregistered 2012 and 2013 models purchased between **December 13, 2012 and January 2, 2013** and registered and delivered by **January 8, 2013**. Offer available only through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. Monthly payments are deferred for 120 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges (if any) will not accrue during the **first 90 days of the contract** and will be paid jointly by the selling dealer and Ontario Toyota Dealer Advertising Association. After 91 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract, but not until 120 days after the contract date. Offer ends January 2, 2013 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Offer available at participating Ontario Toyota Dealers. See your participating dealer for details. **All-in price of a new 2013 Venza AWD V6 Touring Package (Model BK3BBTC)/2013 Corolla S (Model BU44EMB) is $40,070/$23,860. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. *All-in price of a new 2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA) is $30,460/$16,950. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ¥All-in finance on a new 2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA) at 0.9%/0% purchase finance APR for 60/60 months equals a bi-weekly payment of $232/$125 for 130/130 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of $0/$0, when you apply the $1,000/$750 Customer Incentive. Cost of borrowing is $679/$0, for a total obligation of $30,139/$16,200. ▼$1,000/$750 Customer Incentive on a new 2013 Venza FWD/2013 Corolla CE Manual is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Finance offers are valid between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.

With a mechanic's nod you can bank on your Subaru Baja

Second Gear.
2003-2006 Subaru Baja

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: HANDOUT

Subaru's Baja, which was available in Canada from 2003 to 2006, was called a 'crossover' vehicle — and featured four doors, roof-rails and a truck-bed in back. A trap door could be opened between the bed and passenger compartment, allowing for extended length cargo to be accommodated.

BAJA's cabin was available with leather, a sunroof, CD player and aluminum trim, so owners after a luxurious and flexible hauler will likely be impressed. A six-way power driver's seat, roof-mounted activity lights, and a bed-cover were available, too.

Common Issues

A rough idle could indicate an oil-flow problem on turbo-charged engines, caused by a clogged screen in an oil connection. Automatic transmissions could have a leak at the transmission stud, which presents itself as a blood-red fluid apparent near the engine's oil filter. Have a used Subaru Baja jacked into the air at a dealership so a mechanic can inspect crucial parts for damage or abuse. Any leaks, scrapes, dents or excessive rust can be called into pricing negotiations. While there, a mechanic can check for the performance of any recall-related work, in this case dealing with the water pump pulley, a loosely-mounted oil-control valve and a defective 'park rod' in the automatic transmission.

Engine

Power came from a 2.5 litre boxer engine, developing 165 horsepower driving all four wheels via a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual gearbox. After the first year of sales, a turbo-charged engine was available with 210 horsepower.

What owners like

Turbocharged performance, relative fuel efficiency, flexibility, rarity and 'cool factor' were all highly rated, as was performance in snowy or slippery conditions.

What owners dislike

Sluggish performance on automatic/non-turbo models, a small bed and seating for only four occupants were among the most common complaints.

Verdict

Many pickups and SUVs larger and thirstier than the Baja have a mile-long list of concerns and recalls to watch out for, so if Baja's right for you (and you can find one), buy confidently if the model checks out mechanically.

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HONDA

^$1,000 Honda Dollars offer applies only to retail customer purchase or lease agreements for new 2012 Honda Civic Coupe and Sedan models (except Civic Hybrid models) // 2012 Honda CR-V models concluded between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. $1,000 Honda Dollars must be applied towards the purchase or lease of an eligible vehicle, Honda accessories, extended warranty and are deducted after taxes. †Receive 1.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2CEX) for a maximum of 84 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Bi-weekly Finance example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2CEX) equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $97 over an 84 month term at 1.99% APR, complete selling price of $16,520 [includes $1,495 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100 except Honda Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration]. Cost of borrowing is $1,190.42 for a total finance obligation of $17,710.42. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. Ω Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) on a 36 // 36 month term at 0.99% // 2.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $288.00 // 257.99 [includes $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $4,678 // $3,929 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $15,046.00 // $13,216.64. 72,000 // 72,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. ◆$5,000 customer cash incentive is valid on any new 2012 Honda Pilot // 2012 Honda Ridgeline // 2012 Honda Crosstour models when registered and delivered between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through Honda Financial Services Inc. at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. §$500 Honda Dollars offer applies only to retail customer purchase or lease agreements for all new 2012 Honda models (except 2012 Honda Civic Coupe and Sedan // 2012 Honda CR-V) concluded between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. $500 Honda Dollars are deducted after taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ◊Cargo space calculated on volume behind second-row seats with rear-seats up for two-row vehicles in segment and third-row seats with rear seats up for three-row vehicles in segment. Compact Segment classification based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC). All measurements sourced from data published by each manufacturer. ‡Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ∆Text message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices. ◆◆Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2011.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Honda Ridgeline is handy as heck

Pickup truck.
Unique design adds tremendous flexibility

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

I'm a Northern Ontario boy living in the land of Dodge Ram 2500s, Ford Super Dutys and GMC Sierra HDs. People up here love their diesel-powered torque, low-range gearing and tens of thousands of pounds of towing capacity.

The Honda Ridgeline is a truck with none of these attributes — and one considered "less" of a truck by many of my misinformed, diesel-burning friends.

Face it, guys. Driving a Ford Super Duty to the grocery store, baseball game or mall is a massive waste of fuel. At least it'll make quick work of towing that utility trailer a few times a year, eh?

Ridgeline only comes with a V6. It's decent on fuel and as powerful as anyone needs. It's 4x4 system is, usually, front-wheel drive. It's got a smallish box.

But, if you don't regularly need the services of a great big towing rig, it's a truck that makes plenty of sense. Moreso if you have a family, love camping, own a four-legged friend or two, or like to partake in outdoor sports.

Honda Ridgeline Sport

- **Engine.** 3.5 litre VTEC V6, 250 horsepower
- **Drivetrain.** Variable Torque Management (VTM) 4x4 with driver selectable "LOCK" mode
- **Towing Capacity.** 2,268 kg
- **Transmission.** 5-speed automatic
- **Price as Tested.** $37,790

Just because the Ridgeline isn't a diesel burning machine doesn't make it any less of a truck. JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

A clever, flexible design ideology lies at the Ridgeline's functional core.

The large rear seats offer heaps of room for two or three full-sized adults and have a generous storage space beneath them, helping occupants stay organized. And those rear seats flip up and out of the way in about three seconds, creating a large cargo area that'll securely accept a bike or two, a flat-screen TV, a few golden retrievers, or a load of groceries. Or some of the above and a passenger, if you leave one of the seats in its "seat" position.

The box is short — but adequate for a dirt bike, motorcycle or a small quad. The firewall at the front of the bed has built-in notches for holding tires in place, which work with tie-downs to make securing two-wheeled toys a breeze.

The tailgate opens out, like a door, or downwards, like a tailgate, too. Four lights illuminate the bed as needed. It's full of clever, thoughtful touches. Underneath, Ridgeline's famous "under-bed compartment" adds a trunk similar in capacity to that of a mid-sized car. It's lockable, waterproof, and is illuminated and drainable.

If you've got, say, three buddies and two dirtbikes along for the ride, other gear can be kept out of the way in this "truck trunk" without chewing up interior space or being tossed around in the box.

Soggy life jackets, groceries, ice and beverages, coolers, firewood, sandy beach towels and the like all found a home in here on my test dive. Hose it out at the coin wash when you're done.

Ridgeline is also comfortable, rides like a big car, and isn't a giant, imposing, clumsy, thirsty thing to drive. It's almost like a minivan — but cooler and more capable and without the jokes. That's a good thing for many.

Honda's hit the mark here with a truck that's perfect for what 99 per cent of pickup owners use their trucks for 99 per cent of the time. I came away from my test wondering if I'd ever driven a vehicle so handy and flexible.

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LOOKING TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE?

Read metro work every Monday & Wednesday.

metro News worth sharing.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You can be as adventurous as you please now, knowing that nothing bad will come of it. Make use of the Sun's final few days in sympathetic Sagittarius to have fun. Forget about yesterday, it's today that matters.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Money may be a little tight at the moment but that is no reason to deny yourself the good things in life. On the contrary, you will feel better about yourself if you splash out a bit — but not too much.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Thought may be your natural medium but with love planet Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart you want to express yourself not only mentally but romantically too. Give the object of your affection your full attention.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you need help, you must ask for it. No one will think any the less of you if you request assistance. On the contrary, they will admire your maturity. Neither success nor self-worth have anything to do with separation.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The more you have been working on serious things, the more you owe it to yourself to have some fun. Social activities, as well as an affair of the heart, will bring you a great deal of pleasure over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's rather unusual events will convince you that important objectives can only be reached if you are prepared to meet other people halfway. That applies not only to your allies but to your rivals too.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Most of the time your head rules your heart, but today the opposite will be true. You will allow your feelings to dictate what you say and do. Nothing bad will come of it. In fact, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Calm down and stop taking what other people say so seriously. Yes, of course, some individuals can be a complete pain but if you let them upset you it means they have won. It's life — learn to laugh at it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Take your pleasures where you find them and don't give a thought to what is going on around you. Is that irresponsible? Some people may think so but you have done your bit for world peace — now you want a piece of the action.

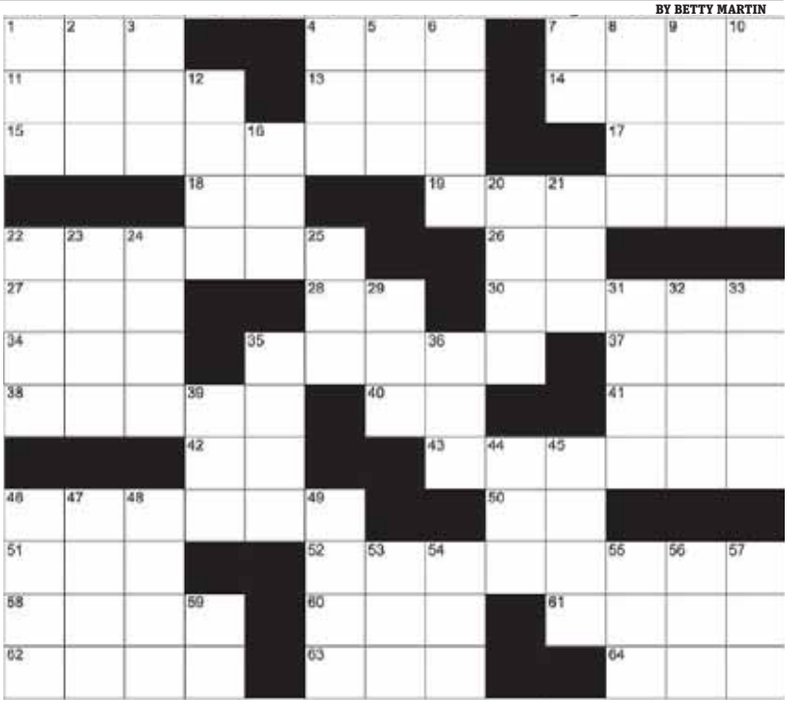
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Most of the time you think and behave rationally but the planets warn that your feelings could get the better of you today. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that so long as they are positive and loving feelings.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stick to what you do best and don't let others involve you in things you have next to no interest in. There is only so much that any one person can do and you'll do your bit better if it inspires you.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find yourself up against someone who speaks and acts a bit too aggressively today but you must not react in kind. Smile, talk softly and reasonably and let them see you are beyond their reach. You win. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

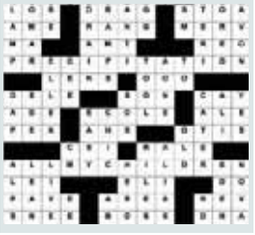
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Package request (abbr.)
4. Breakfast choice
7. Headliner
11. Extremely dry
13. Seminary subj.
14. Skin opening
15. Renounce
17. "Far out!"
18. Trucker's radio, for short
19. Occasions
22. Rate
26. Little Rock st.
27. Victory sign
28. Exclamation of surprise
30. At no time
34. Writer Levin
35. Whacks, as a housefly
37. Silkworm
38. Perry Mason's secretary
40. Musical note
41. Toss out
42. Knight of Grey's Anatomy
43. Busy – - — (3 words)
46. Archie Bunker's offspring
50. – the World Turns
51. Cut back
52. Careless
58. General vicinity
60. Battery sz.
61. Church section
62. Car mishap
63. Skillet
64. Pouch

Down
1. Canadian Auto Association
2. Sphere
3. "I Know What You — Last Summer"
4. Long, long time
5. — Smart
6. Jane Lynch series
7. She played Emily Hartley on The Bob Newhart Show (init.)
8. Severed
9. I smell - — (2 words)
10. Lipstick colours
12. Recipe direction
16. Survivor network
20. Moving vehicles
21. Sooner than, poetically
22. Eager
23. Dried
24. Circus barker
25. Farm mother
29. Sandwich filler
31. Part of speech
32. A great lake
33. Take the subway
35. Indian dress
36. — Maria (coffee liqueur)
39. Common paper sz.
44. Tree fluid
45. Business abbr.
46. Pleased
47. Knowledge
48. — Mike with Mike Bullard
49. Memo abbr.
53. Half a Teletubbie
54. McShane or Ziering
55. The Hour — 22 Minutes
56. Eggs
57. Winter mo.
59. One Day – a Time

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		9	3					
3		4						
	7			8			5	4
5					9	8	4	
		1		2		6		
	2	6	4					9
7	9			3			8	
						7		5
					1	2		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Today 4°/0° Variable
Thursday 6°/-1° Rain 90%
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Hurry in, Winterfest ends Jan 2.

EVERYBODY WINS $1,000 UP TO $25,000

0% —FINANCING ON— 2013 SELECT MODELS**

OFFER ENDS JANUARY 2ND

KIA WINTER FEST

Optima SX Turbo shown△

2013 OPTIMA

NOW ONLY $19,583´

INCLUDES $4,400‡ IN CASH SAVINGS

INCLUDES EVERYBODY WINS $1,000

HWY (A/T): 5.6L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 8.6L/100KM

AIR CONDITIONING

BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY°

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,988, **$3,400 CASH SAVINGS'** and **$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS:** **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $23,983.** Offer based on 2013 Optima LX MT.

Forte SX shown△

2013 FORTE SEDAN

HWY (A/T): 5.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 8.0L/100KM

OWN IT FROM	WITH	AT	FOR UP TO	INCLUDES
$115≠ BI-WEEKLY	$0 DOWN	0.9% APR	60 MONTHS	EVERYBODY WINS* $1,000

STANDARD EX FEATURES:

- STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROL
- BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY°
- 16" ALLOY WHEELS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- HEATED FRONT SEATS
- KEYLESS ENTRY

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $5,926 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,988, **$500 LOAN SAVINGS§** and **$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS:** **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $21,783.** Offer based on 2013 Forte Sedan EX AT.

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CANADIAN AUTOMOTIVE JURY Seal of approval 2013 Approuvé JURY AUTOMOBILE CANADIEN

Rio5 SX shown△

2013 RIO 5-DOOR

OWN IT FROM	WITH	AT	FOR UP TO	INCLUDES
$106≠ BI-WEEKLY	$0 DOWN	1.99% APR	60 MONTHS	EVERYBODY WINS* $1,000

- HEATED SIDE MIRRORS
- STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROL
- HWY (M/T): 5.3L/100KM CITY (M/T): 6.9L/100KM

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $5,396 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,988 and **$1,000 EVERYBODY WINS SAVINGS:** **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $18,983.** Offer based on 2013 Rio5 LX+ AT.

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KIA
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Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX MT (R05S1D) with a selling price of $16,083 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal $193 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. *Every eligible contestant will win (subject to correctly answering a skill-testing question) an Instant Win prize consisting of a discount in an amount from $1,000 to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2012 or 2013 Kia vehicle. One Grand Prize consisting of a $25,000 cheque will be randomly awarded from among all eligible contestants at the conclusion of the contest. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license over the age of majority. Odds of winning a particular discount vary by prize and by region. See kia.ca or your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. ◊◊2013 Kia Rio and Rio5 awarded the "Best of the Best Finalist" by Canadian Automotive Jury (CAJ). Visit thecanadianautomotivejury.ca for full details. ´Cash purchase price for 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) is $19,583 and includes a cash savings of $3,400 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers) and $1,000 Everybody Wins savings. Includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $23,983. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. ‡$3,400 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) from a participating dealer between December 1, 2012 – January 2, 2013. Cash savings is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Forte Sedan EX AT (F074QD)/2013 Rio5 LX+ AT (R07S3D) based on a selling price of $21,783/$18,983 is $115/$106 with an APR of 0.9%/1.99% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $5,926/$5,396 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Offer includes $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, $500/$0 loan savings, delivery and destination fees of $1,455, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. §Loan savings for 2013 Forte Sedan EX AT (F074QD) is $500 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit. Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. △Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D)/2013 Forte SX Luxury AT (F074XD)/2013 Rio5 SX with Navigation AT (R07S9D) is $35,550/$27,150/$23,750 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. °The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Optima 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Forte Sedan 2.0L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Rio5 1.6L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. 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12
Wednesday, September 2012
Coffee with Jamie
2 PM

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COBOURG
- Northumberland Mall

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- Cloverdale Mall
- Sherway Gardens
- Woodbine Centre

GEORGETOWN
- 330 Guelph St

LINDSAY
- 229 Kent St
- Whitney Town Centre

MARKHAM
- 7357 Woodbine Ave
- Markville Shopping Centre
- Pacific Mall

MILTON
- 377 Main St E

MISSISSAUGA
- 980 Eglinton Ave E
- Dixie Value Mall
- Erin Mills Town Centre
- Heartland Power Centre
- Sheridan Centre
- Square One Shopping Centre
- Square One Shopping Centre – Kiosk
- Westgate SmartCentres

NEWMARKET
- Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
- 1635 Lawrence Ave W
- 170 Rimrock Rd
- Bayview Village
- Centerpoint Mall
- Crossroads Plaza
- Empress Walk
- Lawrence Square
- North York Sheridan Mall
- Sheppard Centre
- Yorkgate Mall

OAKVILLE
- Hampshire Gate at Dundas
- Oakville Place

ORANGEVILLE
- 114 Broadway Ave

OSHAWA
- Five Points Mall
- Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
- Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
- Hillcrest Mall

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- Malvern Town Centre
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- Dufferin Mall
- East York Town Centre
- Eaton Centre
- Eaton Centre II
- Eglinton Square
- Gerrard Square
- Holt Renfrew Centre
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- Scotia Plaza
- Shoppers World Danforth
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